

Case 575
DD/s 58-2909

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25 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff, DD/P

SUBJECT : CIA Task Forces

REFERENCE : PP Staff Memorandum, subject: CIA Task Forces,
dated 12 June 1958

1. I concur in the Task Force concept expressed in your memorandum. However, I believe the standby group should include overseas personnel as well.

2. As I see it, there are two parts to the support element of the Task Force: first, there is a headquarters planning group which must be assembled during the earliest planning stages of any project requiring its services. This would, in effect, be a project support planning group whose activities would be coordinated by a senior project support planning officer. Second, there is a field support group which would be comprised of representatives of those elements of the DD/S necessary to support the operation. This unit would be headed by a Senior Support Officer who would be able to provide, through his organization, technical guidance and required services to the operational elements of the project in the field.

3. I believe that the detailed planning of the organizational structure of the DD/S component should be integrated with that of the DD/P Task Force. Since this may be some time away, as an interim measure I intend to establish throughout the DD/S, world-wide standby lists of personnel whose current assignments and experience qualify them for one or more jobs in the DD/S component. Where necessary, documentation and immunizations will be provided to the individuals concerned. As rotation and reassignments occur, this list will be expanded, and when necessary, members will receive specialized training. Also, I intend to have selected from the list a "hard core" of senior officers who can fill key positions.

4. The ramifications stemming from the application of the Task Force concept are extensive and intricate. To mention a few, the location of supply bases from which to support an operation will not be entirely certain until the over-all base problem being studied within the Agency is completed. Even when these places have been determined, the effective use of them will depend directly upon the transportation and lines of communication to and from the bases. For this we depend largely upon the military; special courses will have to be designed and given, perhaps at the expense of some current training activity; the matter of CFX-type operations must be considered. These and other equally important matters must be carefully examined in order to determine the total impact of the Task Force type operation upon the Agency's

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operation as a whole. This, in my opinion, is an extremely important part of the planning which must be done if a real Task Force capability, supported by the best resources of the Agency, is to be developed. To this end, I request that this office be provided with the details of the action you propose to take.

5. Members of my Staff are now available to work with your representatives in the preparation of a detailed, coordinated Task Force plan which I hope will embody the principles outlined in your letter as well as those stated above.

/s/
L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

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SPA-DD/S [REDACTED]:mrf (24 July 1958)

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