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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.

July 6, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Working Group - Committee on Broadcasting and
Television (COBAT)

20th Meeting held 2 p.m. July 5, 1956
OCB Conference Room

Working Group Members Present:

USIA - Robert E. Button, Chairman
ICA - Gerald Winfield
State - Sidney B. Jacques
Florence T. Dowling (alternate)
T. H. E. Nesbitt - Chairman, TPIB
CIA - Representative present
OCB - Ralph Busick, Staff Representative
Marjorie Denny, Staff Assistant

Others Present:

Defense - Major Stanley Rodby
State - Marshall Noble

1. A cable from Beirut concerning the television situation in Lebanon and U.S. commercial interest therein, was considered by the Committee. After full discussion, it was agreed that State would draft a reply, which would then be further coordinated with interested agencies.

2. With reference to Saigon Despatch No. 375, the Chairman informed the Committee of certain programming changes suggested by the Mission which had already been adopted by USIA. The ICA representative elaborated on ICA's plans for the area and displayed charts showing present radio coverage, coverage with planned improvements, and coverage with proposed 25 KW medium-wave transmitter near the 17th Parallel. The TPIB representative suggested consideration be given to an available 50 KW transmitter which could be purchased for the price of a new 25 KW. COBAT agreed to support plans for supplementing present broadcasting facilities in Vietnam, but decided to postpone final consideration until ICA has supplied further information on the status of the Mission's facilities, and until the separate despatch promised by the Mission on the subject of installation of a big transmitter has been received.

3. The ICA representative reported that an airgram to Tripoli, containing TPIB and COBAT proposals concerning a radio station for Libya, had been prepared but not yet sent.

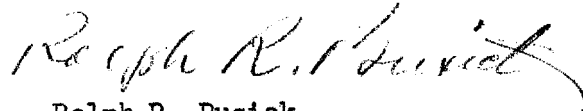
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4. The Defense representative reported that a policy statement concerning the use of USIA films on military TV stations is being prepared.

5. The Austrian radio and TV situation was discussed. It is understood that the Austrians would like some assistance from the U.S. in setting up their shortwave broadcasting, and that if such assistance were to be forthcoming, it might result in more U.S. material being shown on Austrian TV, which has a spillover audience outside of the country.

6. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairman.



Ralph R. Busick
Staff Representative

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