

Richard Burtenshaw

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.

June 28, 1956

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

19th Meeting held 2 p.m. June 27, 1956
OCB Conference Room

Working Group Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- State - Charles C. Finch
- USIA - G. F. Doohar
James Flood
- OCB - Kenneth P. Landon

1. Copies of a memorandum from the Chairman of TPIB containing recommendations on "Radio Broadcasting Facilities for Libya" were distributed to the members of COBAT. These were submitted at COBAT's request. The technical panel proposed that consideration be given to the establishment of a 10 KW shortwave and 10 KW mediumwave station in the vicinity of Tripoli, or to the establishment of FM type broadcasting if existing receivers were not to be the determining factor; also that a survey be made by competent consulting engineers to determine the feasibility of the project, and the terms of reference for the study be reviewed by TPIB.

Discussion brought out agreement as to the political justification and the urgency for development of broadcasting facilities in Libya, particularly in view of recent sharp curtailment of USIS activities there. COBAT accepted TPIB's recommendation that an engineering study be made and, at COBAT's request, the TPIB Chairman agreed TPIB would draft terms of reference for the study. In view of the urgency of the situation, the TPIB Chairman recommended consideration be given to the idea of shipping to Libya on a loan basis a 50 KW complete mobile mediumwave unit now stored in Germany.

The Committee agreed that it was imperative to learn from the mission the Libyan reaction to such a proposal, and a sub-committee of the ICA and State representatives, together with the State Libyan desk officer, was appointed to draft a joint State/ICA cable to Libya stating that it is a matter of urgency that the mission initiate a survey; requesting that pending results of this survey the Mission give its views on the temporary expedient suggested above; suggesting that at the Ambassador's discretion the British

should be informed of the project informally; and mentioning the offer of the technical services of military personnel based at Tripoli for the purposes of a preliminary survey.

2. At the request of the Chairman, the Defense representative agreed to look into the problem connected with the use of USIA films on military TV stations, and prepare a memorandum for USIA on the subject.

3. Mr. Landon gave a general summary of the situation in Vietnam, where the country teams have agreed as to the need for more radio broadcasting to the Vietnamese. After a brief discussion it was decided to postpone this agenda item until the next meeting, by which time all of the committee members were asked to have preliminary positions on Despatch 375 of May 31 from Saigon.

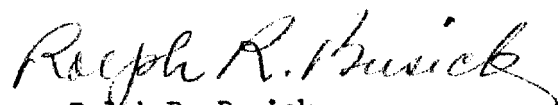
4. With reference to the television situation in Lebanon, the State Department representative pointed out that it was evident from Beirut's Despatch No. 73 that the mission believes the establishment of television on American standards most important since all recommendations were built around it. In view of the fact that this despatch crossed the outgoing cable coordinated through COBAT last week, and partially answered this cable, the State Department recommended a follow-up cable should be sent at this time. The Committee agreed that it should be pointed out to Beirut that under the circumstances the establishment of U.S. standards was not per se the U.S. objective.

5. The subject of OCB reporting under NSC 169 was discussed. It was the consensus of COBAT and TPIB that in view of the fact that the first OCB report, requesting formalization of OCB reporting responsibility, had not yet been considered by the NSC, no steps should be taken toward the preparation of another report. Furthermore, it was recommended that the OCB try to find out from ODM whether or not its report will go forward soon, and if not, OCB should request the NSC to consider its report separately. As soon as the NSC had considered the OCB's initial report and formalized the reporting arrangement, plans should then be made for independent OCB reports on a regular schedule.

6. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 5 at 2 P.M.

Tentative agenda:

1. Member's views on Saigon Despatch 375
2. Report of sub-committee on cable to Tripoli
3. Report from Defense on use of USIA films on military TV stations
4. Exploration of Austrian radio & TV situation



Ralph R. Busick
Staff Representative