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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.

May 22, 1956

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

16th Meeting held 2 p.m., May 21, 1956
OCB Conference Room

Working Group Members Present:

USIA - Frederick A. Long, Acting Chairman
ICA - Harry Carr (alternate)
Defense - Col. M. E. Williamson
State - Mr. Sidney B. Jacques
Mrs. Florence T. Dowling (alternate)
CIA - Representative Present
OCB - Leslie Brady
Ralph Busick
Marjorie Denny

Others Present:

USIA - George Jacobs

1. The minutes of the May 7th meeting were adopted.
2. The Defense Member reported that its first TV installation to begin operations in Canada would be at Goose Bay rather than at Harmon, as reported at the last meeting.
3. COBAT was informed of the following action taken by the Board Assistants on May 18:

"Returned the papers entitled 'International Broadcasting Facilities', dated May 3 and May 15 respectively, to the Committee on Broadcasting and Television (in consultation with the Technical Panel for International Broadcasting) for revision following preparation of a statement for the U.S. Information Agency by the Department of State as to the adequacy, from the foreign policy objective standpoint, of existing and planned overseas broadcast facilities, taking into account the lead-time required to develop new installations as well as the usual budgetary and priority factors."

The Committee agreed that no action could be taken until after the State Department had prepared its statement for the USIA.

4. The alternate member for State, who had just returned from a series of color TV demonstrations held in the U.S. and Europe for the C.C.I.R., reported that no firm recommendations had yet been drawn up regarding standardization of color TV service for Europe.

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5. In connection with the project of a radio station for Libya to counteract the Egyptian radio and meet the needs of education, a USIA representative orally presented facts and figures on population and receiver coverage which could be accomplished with various broadcast installations. (These technical details will later be furnished COBAT in the form of a memorandum.) As a result of the population distribution, power situation, limited number of frequencies available, and lack of trained Libyan technical personnel, USIA suggested the installation of several low-powered stations, rather than one higher-power transmitter. In making this suggestion, USIA pointed out that a finite broadcast plan for Libya could not be developed until some of the many variables had been studied further. Following discussion, there was general agreement that an on-the-spot survey was needed. The Defense Member then volunteered to explore the possibility of using the technical services of military personnel based at Tripoli, who have knowledge of the terrain and local conditions, for this survey.

6. The next meeting of the Committee will be held Monday, May 28th at 2 P.M. at OCB.

Ralph R. Busick
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Staff Representative

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