

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

February 28, 1956

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

Seventh Meeting held 1:30 p.m.,
February 27, 1956, OCB Conference Room

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

USIA - Robert E. Button (Chairman)
State - T. H. E. Nesbitt, TPIB Chairman
Defense - Lt. Col. M. E. Williamson
CIA - Representative of CIA
ICA - Robert Bruskin
OCB - Ralph R. Busick, Staff Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

State - Richard Straus

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

2. Upon recommendation of the Chairman, the Committee reconsidered its position with respect to the television situation in Finland and decided that very recent developments have made Finnish TV a matter of urgency for action by the U.S. Accordingly, it was decided to call a special meeting of the Committee this week to complete the report on European television so that the next regular meeting can be devoted to an action plan for Finland.

correct
3. It was agreed that as soon as an action plan for Finland TV is completed, action plans should be undertaken for both East and West Pakistan (which has signified its desire for U.S. aid), Iran, Taiwan, Indonesia, Greece, and Singapore (as distinct from Malaya). Meanwhile, the situation in certain European countries will be studied further, as areas of urgency for which action plans may be necessary.

4. In considering the potentialities of the European TV situation, the following observations and questions were discussed:

a. The desirability of keeping European TV program content oriented toward the West.

b. The desirability of excluding Communist influence or control.

SECRET

8031

c. The means of accomplishing a and b - viz., that the U.S. hand should not appear, and that indigenous organizations or individuals should be responsible. The best instrumentality is -

- (1) NATO Cultural and Information Committee?
- (2) Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OECC)?
- (3) European Broadcasting Union (EBU)? or
- (4) Any combination of the three?

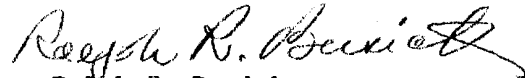
d. Should an individual be the instrumentality rather than a unit or organization - e.g., a German to persuade the Finns - to avert suspicion?

e. Although TV in individual countries should receive encouragement and help, mutual program support seems to be necessary, indicating need for aid toward developing a continental network.

f. Each country has its own peculiar problems, so that a country-by-country survey may be necessary.

5. It was agreed that the first thing to do is to find a way to key Finland into a European-wide TV network, possibly Eurovision.

6. The next meeting was called for Friday, March 2, at 2:00 p.m.



Ralph R. Busick
Staff Representative.