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TO : Mr. Bertrandias (PP/ICD/Radio) *RB*

DATE: 17 May 1956

FROM : J. G. Shaffer (PP/C/ICD) *J Shaffer*SUBJECT: COBAT COMMITTEE *File COBAT*

1. I called Jesse MacKnight today to talk about the prospects of him representing State on the COBAT Committee, and in fact taking the Chairmanship.

2. He pointed out three compelling reasons why he can't do this:

a. His primary job is East-West Cultural Relations, and he hasn't time for anything else.

b. OCB won't accept him, as both of you know.

c. State, within the past few days, has appointed a new man to represent it on COBAT.

3. The new man's name is Sidney Jacques. Jacques is a foreign service officer, recently returned from Paris and a concern with East-West trade, and now is assigned to the P Area. He has no communications experience, but, according to Jesse, he is a "good sensible guy." Jesse said that he has got to be given some time to get his feet on the ground. But that he certainly is of COBAT caliber.

4. Jacques will replace a Miss or Mrs. Dowling. Bucky Nesbit will remain a member, representing TPIB, but not State.

5. Jacques and MacKnight already have agreed that MacKnight will backstop and tutor Jacques for awhile. I commended MacKnight his recent paper on International Broadcasting as an ideal basic document for this tutelage. Jesse says it already is so, but could be made more impressive if Egner and Bertrandias were to meet Jacques and MacKnight for a lunch where they could talk about it.

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