

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

21 December 1953

Present

25X1A Members: [redacted], CIA, Chairman
CIA
John A. Lacey, State
Richard Bauer, Army
Maj. Matthias F. Donelan, Air Force

25X1A Consultants: [redacted], CIA
CIA
CIA

25X1A Observers: [redacted] CIA
CIA
25X1A CIA
CIA

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Subcomm EXPL. FLP / CONF

1. The sixteenth meeting convened at 1400 hours, 21 December 1953, in Room 2125 M Building.

2. In consideration of the minutes of the fifteenth meeting, Mr. Lacey stated that he felt the minutes were generally too brief and that they should be covered by fuller transcript. This was concurred in by the remaining committee members. Mr. Lacey then stated that he would like to clarify the minutes of the fifteenth meeting by adding the following to the record:

In 2a, the statement that "Hong Kong provides adequate coverage" referred only to the mainland communist Chinese newspapers. It did not refer to periodicals nor to the Nationalist press. It has been officially proposed that HKNS be augmented by two positions for political coverage and informally proposed that four positions be added for economic coverage. The cost of such expansion is estimated at \$2500.00 per translator. Should such expansion be authorized, State would have no further need for current coverage by FDD. *for periodicals of periodicals*

2b: It was not the thought of State that "the routine exploitation" desired by them should be done by FDD only on specific request, but instead as a regular procedure resulting from systematic scanning and selection processes.

2c: The method of reporting preferred by State is translations as far as possible, the second choice is compilations and collations. The form of reports is not important but in whatever form they are produced they should be unclassified in order to meet the needs of the Department for easier dissemination. *add what is being done*

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2d: The statement in the minutes of the fifteenth meeting is not clear. It is the hope of State that FDD providing a common service can devote all its time to non-current work and the support of specific requests on research papers such as NISs, NIEs, and State's Psychological Support.

2f: With respect to liaison, Mr. Lacey felt that in addition to his suggestion that an FDD officer spend time periodically in China Branch, that there be regular monthly meetings between Chief, China Branch of State, and Chief, Far East Branch of FDD.

3. Continuing the review of the agenda for China exploitation:

As to 2a, Mr. Bauer stated that Army would like FDD to cover Chinese mainland newspapers with emphasis on unit and army titles, if available, and the provincial press. As a secondary priority Army desires coverage of the central press, mainland periodicals and books in that order.

2b: First priority is current information on order of battle, indications of changes in military policy and troop movements; second priority is information on organization, training and equipment; and third is technical, health and sanitation, transportation, topography and all forms of communications.

2c: Compilations and collations for press, with emphasis on compilations, as Army feels this form will permit earlier reporting. Abstracts for periodical articles and books.

2d: Current information should be reported in compilations or collations with emphasis on compilations, especially from the press for order of battle information, but spot reports should be used for that information of which time is the essence.

2e: Abstracts should be prepared for periodical articles and books. Part of the effort should be set aside for projects on specific request.

2g: Liaison is currently enjoyed but it could be expanded. It is desirable that the practice of CIA reservists spending their annual tours of duty in G-2 be continued and perhaps expanded. Monthly or bimonthly meetings between officers in G-2 and FDD to discuss developments would be profitable.

4. At this point the question arose as to the precise meaning of the word "current."

██████████ suggested that the term cover that material which is currently received in FDD.

Mr. Bauer concurred.

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Major Donelan stated that the position of Air Force was that as distinguished from "historical" information, "current" should depend on a definite cut-off date and for documents anything over 18 months previous to the date of reporting was not current as far as the Air Force was concerned.

Mr. Lacey indicated that they have in State a heavy responsibility for the reporting of current information and in discharging this responsibility, the information must be extremely timely, most frequently a matter of hours or days.

The Chairman suggested that as there was such a wide divergence of usage, each member in his presentation of needs clarify exactly what he means if he chooses to use the word "current."

5. Needs of Air Force:

Major Donelan stated that Air Force's needs were similar to Army; however, with an air slant and not more than 18 months old. This would, of course, include airfields, aircraft production, industrial installations, transportation, urban areas, etc., prepared in the same form as for Army. These requirements would be subject to change dependant upon the results of the current survey by Air Force of its facilities for China reporting. Air Force requirements are comprehensively presented in the publication "Basic Air Intelligence Requirements." Air Force will submit a copy of "BAIR" and we can summarize the needs as abstracting or extracting of information relating to "BAIR."

6. Needs of CIA:

As stated by [redacted] the following statement of needs may be subject to later modification. CIA's needs in terms of FID's twofold responsibility regarding exploitation vis., first, to coordinate effectively the present and future efforts in this field; and second, to conduct the necessary exploitation itself, are as follows:

2a: All current publications should be covered by some form of exploitation. 'Current' here means those publications currently received by an exploitation group of the intelligence agencies and containing information not previously exploited. Excluded, however, are mainland Chinese materials published prior to Communist control and all Chinese Nationalist publications, except upon specific request.

2b: Newspapers should receive a sustained and strong exploitation effort. Periodicals should not be exploited beyond the annotation or description of contents, the additional effort to be used for subsequent coordinated requirements. Books should not be exploited beyond the annotation or description of contents until specific requirements are received, and these satisfactorily coordinated among consumers.

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2c: FDD should prepare abstracts within all three groups of materials. (The annotated bibliography is considered a form of abstract.) For effort in response to specific requests, the compilation may be considered the best compromise between a full translation and a collated (integrated) report.

2d: Information as to what is available should be reported monthly. Answers to specific requirements can be planned for monthly and quarterly reports.

2e: The effort in non-current exploitation should be in direct ratio to the need. The initial effort undertaken by FDD to establish some reference aids for these materials is a necessary prerequisite to further exploitation.

2f: Factual comments, themselves properly documented, are desirable, if adequately separated from the material being reported.

2g: Liaison can be improved by frequent and regular contact between analysts of consumer offices who know what is needed and FDD analysts, knowledgeable in terms of planned and existing requirements of other consumer offices.

3: Present efforts in exploitation services of the IAC agencies are not meeting the needs of the consumers effectively. One of these inadequacies is due to a lack of serious coordination among the groups performing this exploitation. Another of the inadequacies lies outside the exploitation itself, and is a part of the procurement and/or collection problem. The problem of Chinese publications is a little different from the Soviet publication problem, certainly as to the availability of materials. Consequently, increased and successful collection efforts would allow the exploitation services to meet the needs of the consumers more effectively. These collection efforts would probably require the reassessment of consumer needs in terms of additional material received for exploitation.

7. [REDACTED] stated that he was quite interested in Stata's previous proposal of serving requirements on HKPMS. Mr. Lacey stated that Hong Kong would not accept direct requirements as they are now working against Joint Economic requirements of the IAC agencies and these could be revised annually. At this point a discussion was entered into as to the exact responsibility of FDD for coordination under NSCID-16. The Chairman stated that he felt that FDD could act as the executive agent of this committee in the field of coordination and that in any instance where it could not get anywhere it would report the facts to the committee and ask guidance as to future action. Mr. Lacey suggested that there should be rather an inter-agency mechanism for conducting that coordination.

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8. The agenda for the next meeting will be a continuation of the examination of exploitation of Chinese publications.

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9. Meeting adjourned at 1530 hours, 21 December 1953. The next meeting will be held at 1400 hours, Friday, 8 January 1953, in Room 2125 M Building. ⁵³
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In addition, a special meeting to consider the third and fourth draft recommendations on exploitation of non-scientific Russian publications will be held at 1000 hours, Tuesday, 12 January 1953, in Room 2125 M Building. ⁵³
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