

C O N F I D E N T I A L

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS**

7 October 1955

Present

Members: John Lacey, State  
Stanley Wilcox, State  
Richard Bauer, Army  
ITWG William C. Nyce, Navy  
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

FOIAB3C

[Redacted] 25X1

Consultants: George Fughe, AID/Air Force

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1. The 56th meeting convened at 1400 hours, and the minutes of the 55th meeting were approved with the following emendations and statements:

Mr. Lacey stated that his presentation, as reported in the minutes of the 55th meeting, was summarized into too condensed a form to convey the State position. The first sentence indicating shortage of linguistic capability should be limited to "certain areas, particularly in Far Eastern languages, there is a lack of linguistic skills." In the first paragraph, on page 2, in addition to the statement of need for some reservation of effort for translation service, the need for service on specific requests is also important to these considerations. None of the text in quotation marks was in effect a direct quote of Mr. Lacey's presentation.

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2. [Redacted] called attention to the fact that CIA's interests in the collation of subjects not now being covered by FDD were quite incomplete as only the interests of one office were included and those of other offices would actually cover most all of the categories.

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Mr. Bauer stated that Army's interests were also only partially covered, as some of the Technical Services had not replied.

FOIAB3C

[redacted] presented the following:

NSA supports additional coverage on the following categories which, due to an error, were omitted from a list of NSA requirements submitted on 10 August 1955. It is requested that the 1 July collation of categories be revised to reflect these needs.

EASTERN EUROPE

BULGARIA

Requirements for exploitation of Bulgarian central and provincial newspapers and military publications for all categories of military information.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Requirements for exploitation of Czechoslovak central and provincial newspapers and military publications for all categories of military information.

POLAND

Requirements for exploitation of Polish central and provincial newspapers and military publications for all categories of military information.

FAR EAST

CHINA

Political - Military

The Chairman said he realized that the collation was incomplete but that it had been made as promised purely as a guide to the members and consisted of only those specific replies that had been made at the time of its typing.

3. Old business - Translation Service

Mr. Bauer presented Army's statement as follows:

Translation facilities within the Department of the Army are adequate to meet minimum requirements in the Romance, Germanic, and Slavic languages, but are inadequate in other

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language groups. FDD services many of Army's requirements for translation, and other requirements are met on a contractual basis. The Technical Services, chiefly Engineers, Signal Corps, and Ordnance, translate many documents within their fields of interest, but their translation services are not entirely adequate and are generally limited to a few key languages, such as Russian and German.

Many of the translations, especially of a highly technical or specialized nature, performed by DA translation facilities are not of particularly high quality, and delays in translation are often considerable. The fact that existing translation facilities meet the minimum requirements in some of the languages is not the result of adequate staffs of linguists being available, but is more a result of a paucity of translatable material. Even so, much potentially valuable material (especially from the non-Sino-Soviet Bloc countries) is not being translated or otherwise being exploited due to the necessity of justifying the cost of the translation or because it does not warrant a high priority.

Many of the Army Attachés and some of the Field Commands translate articles from periodicals which are considered to be of intelligence value, but these translations often duplicate translations undertaken by FDD. In the case of the attachés, this activity consumes time which could be better devoted to other collection activities.

Two possible sources of additional translation services have been considered by G2, DA. The first of these is the employment of indigenous personnel in the field, and the second is the establishment of contracts with private translation services. No actions have been taken in either regard. Establishment of a central contracting agency might meet Army's requirements.

FDD might help to relieve some of the translation load from the Army attaches in Iron Curtain countries if an arrangement could be made by which the attachés, in scanning newspapers and periodicals, could call attention to an article which appeared to warrant translation and FDD would undertake to translate or otherwise exploit the article. This would help to eliminate duplication of effort and would help effect considerable administrative savings. FDD could be made aware of valuable articles warranting translation by letter (possibly on a bi-weekly or monthly basis) on a routine basis. The volume of this material would, in all probability, not be greater than 10-15,000 words per month per country, and very likely the total would be less.

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## 4. USSR and Satellites Program Review

State/Mr. Wilcox: State Department is shocked at the personnel allocation for political and sociological coverage in FDD. The economic staff is disproportionately large in USSR work. The same rough proportions exist on East Europe. This constitutes an imbalance. The total staff for East Europe should be larger than the total staff for the USSR. It requires a much more laborious effort to cover eight countries than one country. The best remedy for this is to readjust and we would support an appropriate readjustment. We could get a useful contribution but not with so much smaller a staff than we have in DFS.

Some of our analysts have noted a great change in FDD but some of those feel that they get less of value than we got before. For State's needs it is safe to say that scraps of information are virtually of no value; we must have collations. For example, reports on a particular mine are of no value but it would be particularly useful if you put together pieces on the mines of a whole country. Actually this applies more particularly to political and sociological studies than to economic subjects.

Slowness or time lag is the reason for asking you to get away from scrap material. FDD's format is too rigid and duplication continues to exist. I recommend that you process political material first. We are disinterested in FDD's Central Press items. The only reason you should look into the Central Press is to avoid reporting duplicatory material in the Provincial Press.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Wilcox's statement was valuable to FDD and the Committee, adding that he had felt that current reporting was not a proper role for FDD as the best probable role was the basic type of reporting. Aren't FBIS/BBC and JPRS adequate for current reporting?

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[redacted] was in agreement with the Chairman's remarks stating that we should consider the advisability of expanding the use of JPRS reports. He continued that CIA can absorb fragments and there is interest in some types and it can aid in timeliness as some synthesis is very time consuming. Economic material is suitable to this type of reporting. Coverage in FBIS seems to be fairly good in political matters but it is not adequate for economic material. He does not feel that the current imbalance is so great in view of the availability of material.

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Mr. Wilcox stated that they did not want political speeches which were readily available elsewhere. Press criticism of collective farms, etc.; standard themes brought together in collations are what we need.

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[redacted] felt that the imbalance in staff was due to, first, the fact that there are more sources reporting political material, more "people in the act" and secondly, that economic requirements are quite specific, while political requirements are far more general.

Mr. Wilcox: I think you should do what you think should be done and perhaps sell the consumer.

Navy: Lt. Myce stated that the type of reporting now done by FDD has been satisfactory to Navy.

Mr. Wilcox stated that regarding the current program Items "B" and "C" under "political" can be dropped. Weather and crops, forestry and forest products, and data on the rayon level can be dispensed with. State would like, however, whole topic coverage on such subjects as ministerial organization, collective farm operations, typical defects in mining operations, etc. Political requirements for the Satellites are substantially the same multiplied by eight [countries]. State's main criticism comes from political analysts on the Satellite side and more manpower is needed in FDD for the job.

Mr. Bauer: We have noticed some duplication with BBC and the Canadians, but as we discussed some time ago, Army feels quite strongly that we should not rely on a foreign agency to provide us with information. It is difficult to control the product, the time element is longer and there is always the danger that the effort will be dropped suddenly. The analysts of G-2 and the Technical Services of Army have found that the products of FDD are meeting a definite need. The recent improvements of issuing an OO-W on some important items which will appear again in the summaries is greatly appreciated. Some of the Technical Services feel that more items in summaries could have been reported earlier and they would like to have more of this type of coverage.

5. Mr. Bauer introduced a statement from Army on the use of the Transliteration Handbook, which is made a part of the record.

6. The Chairman distributed to the members the first issue of FDD's "Semiannual Report on Retail Trade in the USSR," Summary No. 673.

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7. Agenda for the next meeting: Continuation of Review of the USSR and East European Satellite Programs. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 21 October 1955, in Room 2125 M Building.

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