

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

26 July 1957

Present

25X1A Members: Stanley Wilcox, State
 Richard Bauer, Army
25X1A [redacted] NSA
 [redacted] CIA
25X1A [redacted] Acting Chairman

 Consultants: Richard Calhoun, State
 Max Horlick, State
 Gordon Tiger, State
 Donald T. Shea, USIA
25X1A [redacted] CIA
 [redacted] CIA
25X1A [redacted] Acting Secretary

1. The 85th meeting of the Exploitation Subcommittee convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 84th meeting were approved with the following amendments and comment:

State

Referring to page 3, paragraph 1, State requested deletion of the words "is considered to be more thoroughgoing and," which did not represent the consensus of State Department opinion.

Army

Mr. Bauer noted on page 3, last sentence of paragraph 3, a misinterpretation of Army opinion with regard to FDD coverage of tactics, training, etc. This sentence reflected the thinking of the OB analysts who were requesting greater depth of coverage. The technical analysts, however, desired more data on materiel, preferably presented in a separate technical section.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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2. The Chairman requested consideration of the first item on the agenda, which called for discussion of a memorandum sent by the Chairman on 28 June to members of the Subcommittee regarding the discontinuation of Selections From the Soviet Press.

State

A memorandum from Mr. J. C. Crichton of State Department was submitted to the Chairman. The memorandum was summarized by Mr. Tiger as follows:

Mr. Crichton, representing the psychological warfare analysts at State, had stressed that the Selections, the CDSF, and the Survey were all of value and did not duplicate each other, but that there was a difference in their utility. The Selections and Current Digest were useable as issued, since these publications provided the actual quotations and full texts required by State analysts. The Survey, on the other hand, relied heavily on paraphrasing, which was valuable for giving leads on a series of developments within a field, but still required an analyst to consult the original text.

Mr. Crichton did, however, applaud the FDD effort to produce a publication dealing with the recent press, rather than one so old as to be of only marginal interest.

Mr. Tiger then spoke for the Soviet Internal Branch, which is his own. He stated that the Survey is useful to this branch, and that he considers the paraphrasing, collation, and analysis by FDD to be helpful. However, the FDD product interposes a stage of analysis between State analysts and the original source material, when the primary interest of Soviet Internal Branch is in the full texts of key articles in the source material. This the Selections was supplying, at first it is true, on a somewhat hit-or-miss basis. However, there has recently been an increase in the selectivity of this service. The Selections was also just beginning to attempt coverage of the journals, which are very important to DRS. A final advantage of the Selections was that it came to DRS faster than the Survey - roughly four weeks instead of six weeks. DRS' interests therefore, can be summarized as follows: full texts of key articles, coverage of the journals, and faster service.

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25X1A Mr. Wilcox asked Mr. Tiger at this point if by full texts he meant complete translations of key articles or selected and/or condensed translations of the key portions of the articles. Mr. Tiger said that the first was preferable, the second acceptable as a minimum. [redacted] commented that FDD now includes in the Survey some full texts of key articles, listed as supplements. Mr. Tiger said that State realized this, and that these translations had been of value. Mr. Tiger then repeated his statement that State appreciates the collation and analysis effort put forth by FDD into the Survey, and that this has been quite useful on occasions, but that in the final analysis what State wants is the full texts of key articles which can be filed, as the Survey items cannot.

Army

Mr. Bauer noted that to his considerable surprise the Army Engineers are quite interested in the Survey, and like it very much as it stands.

Navy - Air

Mr. Bauer, on behalf of ~~Navy and~~ Air, said that they had no additional requirements for the Survey resulting from discontinuation of the Selections.

NSA

25X1A [redacted] said that NSA has no particular interest in the Survey.

CIA

25X1A [redacted] said that CIA has no additional requirements for the Survey resulting from discontinuance of the Selections, but is assuming that FDD will continue with work previously done by the Selections, so that the same coverage will continue to be made available.

USIA

Mr. Shea presented the Chairman with a memorandum summarizing his Agency's position. He also noted that USIA was very interested in the Selections and dropped its financial support of that operation solely due to lack of funds resulting from the decrease in the USIA budget this year.

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3. The Subcommittee moved to the second item on the agenda, with Mr. Calhoun, speaking for State, discussing the problem of recently received Greek documents. Mr. Calhoun said that in mid-April, State received a dispatch from the Athens Embassy enclosing documents received from the Greek Foreign Ministry Charge in Sofia. The four or five selected documents deal with questions of economic development and other problems in Bulgaria. There is interest in this general type of material due to the lack of U. S. diplomatic representation in Bulgaria.

An IAD meeting was called to discuss the documents and was attended by representatives of ORR, OCI, FDD, and DRS. It was determined that they were of some value for intelligence purposes, but that the sample available was not adequate for full analysis. Therefore, it was decided that State would request its Athens Embassy to transmit the balance of the documents on hand, and to continue sending such documents for a six-month period. Also, arrangements were made for FDD to check on the originality of the contents of the documents. Mr. Calhoun then gave a memorandum to the Chairman summarizing these points.

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Mr. Bauer asked to what extent the documents duplicate information received from the same source, stating that Army receives similar documents [redacted] He also inquired to what extent the documents duplicated information possibly received by FI. A discussion then followed on coordinating procurement of such information on Bulgaria. FDD agreed to check with FI to see whether they are receiving similar documents.

4. Completion of Review of USSR Program

The Chairman stated that FDD is taking steps to provide faster service with regard to the Survey. The main hold-up is in reproduction. However, reproduction is cooperating in attempts to obtain more rapid service. It is also planned to expand the report to include coverage of the journals.

In response to comments at the last meeting by members requesting a more elaborate system of indexing FDD reports, the Chairman stated that steps are being taken to provide more detailed tables of contents to these reports.

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Army

Mr. Bauer stated that Army has no strong feeling pro or con to the FDD proposal that the Consumer Goods report be discontinued.

CIA

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[] stated that he had found violent exception taken in ORR to the FDD proposal to drop the Consumer Goods reports. It was agreed that coverage of food could be dropped from this report, but all other subject categories covered by it were still desired. For example, synthetic fibers, a subject not covered in the recent handbook, Industry of the USSR. Even subject categories covered by this handbook must be kept up to date, although some modification may be possible.

The Chairman instructed FDD to conduct liaison with ORR to work out the details of coverage of this subject.

5. Review of Eastern Europe Program

State

Mr. Horlick said that a survey was made of the several area desks at State to determine their reaction to FDD reports. The answers varied according to whether or not the U. S. had diplomatic representation in a given country, and whether there was a statistical handbook available for a given country. For example, the recent publication of a handbook on Rumania makes regional reporting on that area more important than ever. Also, the lack of representation in Albania and Bulgaria presents a general need for analysis of major speeches and pronouncements for statistical and other information. More information is needed from specialized journals and the provincial press, especially trends in the provincial press, Satellite activities in the free world, e.g., friendship societies, travel, re-defection campaigns.

All of the area desks at State like the Political-Sociological reports on the Satellites issued by FDD, but would like to have more sociological information on such subjects as population, manpower, wage scales, public welfare, and health.

The Chairman stated that reports on public health were being issued by JPRS.

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Mr. Horlick said that the Weekly Economic Report on Eastern Europe was not as significant as other reports. Although there is general satisfaction with the report, more information is desired on crop progress from local sources.

The Military Report on Eastern Europe is used to some extent, especially that part pertaining to military policies. There is a need for information on propaganda in the armed forces, by way of non-military editorials in military newspapers, and a comparison of such propaganda with that directed toward the civilian population.

Mr. Horlick then reviewed as follows States' feelings on coverage of the various Satellites.

Poland - There is an interest in the provincial press. As in most other areas, the Political-Sociological report is excellent; however, it should cover specific periods. The Polish desk is the only one preferring a more frequent report.

Yugoslavia - The Political-Sociological report is very useful, and the coverage of Party affairs is particularly good. More information is needed on religion and personalities in the various religious groups, radio and TV, press circulation and distribution, the workings of the government, and economic relations with the Bloc. Section 64 of the NIS, Manufacturing, will be produced within a year and information for this section is desired by IRS. Matter of a general nature, and not details, is needed. There is also an interest in economic planning and taxation.

Bulgaria - Reports are desired on crop progress from the provincial press, and statistical information of all kinds.

Rumania - The State desk has close contact with FDD. There is a need for regional data in conjunction with the recently issued statistical handbook, and information on economic and sociological subjects.

Albania - The Political-Sociological report is very good. The Economic report is of value but out-of-date. Information is needed for inclusion in Section 41 of the NIS, Population, to be published late next Spring, and on statistical information compiled from speeches, congress reports, etc.

Czechoslovakia - Information is needed on trends in the provincial press. There is no need for information from party speeches.

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Hungary - There has been a considerable decline in coverage, particularly on living standards. Information is needed on organization and personalities, and much more sociological information is desired.

Army

Mr. Bauer mentioned that FDD analysts had recently spent two weeks on duty with ACSI, which he felt would aid them in understanding Army requirements. An increasing amount of information on Soviet materiel was appearing in the Satellite press, particularly in the Polish press, but also that of Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. On the whole, coverage of the Satellite military press is adequate and the selection of items for the Military Report on Eastern Europe is good. However, more coverage in depth is still desired. There is no comparable coverage from any other source. The Yugoslav desk analyst wants no tampering with the report.

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Mr. Bauer raised the question of including military projects in [redacted]. The question was also raised of FDD help in translating worthwhile French and Italian reports on Bulgaria and Poland transmitted by our military attaches. It is hoped that the 525th MI Group being moved from Ft. Bragg to Ft. Meade will be able to help with the work load. There is also a possibility of obtaining eleven [redacted] periodicals, while G-2 USAREUR believes that more Czechoslovak military publications may be available soon. *THESE WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL EXPLOITATION EFFORT.*

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Delet
Mr. Bauer noted that the Attache in Warsaw was duplicating FDD coverage by employing a full-time translator. However, a list of work done by him was being forwarded to FDD in order to reduce such duplication.

In commenting on State's use of non-military editorials in military publications, Mr. Bauer said that perhaps this coverage should be continued.

Speaking for Air, Mr. Bauer said that the Air Force is satisfied with the Military Report on Eastern Europe and has no adverse comments or suggestions to offer.

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[redacted] suggested that a survey be made of the number of classified items for which help in translation is desired from FDD, so that FDD can make a study of the problem and determine what portion of it they can handle.

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6. Review of the Eastern Europe program will be continued at the next meeting of the Subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 1545 with the decision to hold the next meeting in mid-September.

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