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20 SEP 1955

The Honorable Herbert Brownell, Jr.
The Attorney General
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brownell:

I refer to your memorandum of April 20, 1955, concerning the proposed revision of NSC 123, "Evacuation of Selected Key Indigenous Persons from Danger Areas," and to the interim reply made by Mr. Dulles, dated May 30, 1955.

In view of the comments contained in your memorandum, I feel it would be inappropriate at this time to recommend that the revision of NSC 123 be approved by the National Security Council, notwithstanding the general approval of the Statement of Policy which you expressed. It would seem that the Staff Study and the Statement of Policy are so interrelated that any qualification as to approval of one necessarily applies equally to the other. Manifestly the internal security problem discussed at length in your memorandum should be resolved before effectual planning to implement the NSC 123 program can be accomplished. Accordingly, the emphasis which your comments place upon that aspect of the problem is most apposite.

NSC 123 established a national policy that it is in the security interest of the United States that under specific circumstances certain selected key indigenous persons be denied the Soviet Bloc and utilized to further the objectives of the United States and its allies, and further that certain of these people be brought into the United States. The implementation of this policy will necessarily involve a degree of risk to the internal security of the United States which all agencies involved must maintain within their respective responsibilities. As coordinator in the development of over-all target lists, this Agency will take all steps within its power to assure the most careful screening and selection of indigenous personnel involved and the development of all possible information relating to internal security. In addition it must assure that those selected for entry into the United States are only those who cannot be satisfactorily provided for in other areas of the world.

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With regard to your specific comments concerning those who do enter the United States, this Agency is prohibited by law from any internal security functions (Section 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947; 61 Stat. 495). We, therefore, must refer the internal security aspects of this program to you and other agencies who have internal security functions. We feel, of course, an obligation to cooperate insofar as possible within our responsibility to lessen the additional burden which the implementation of NSC 123 would necessarily impose upon those agencies of the Government. We, therefore, welcome further discussions with your representatives to this end. Our representative for this purpose will be Colonel [redacted] or as an alternate Lt. Colonel [redacted], both of whom may be reached on extension 4241.

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Sincerely,

SHANE
C. P. Cabell
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

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