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12 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Briefing Note, Ad Hoc Weapon Systems Study Committee Report

1. Most of the background leading to the Committee's recommendations is outlined in the body of the report itself. In addition, however, you should be aware of the following points of issue which arose during the Committee's deliberations:

2. Use of professional weapon systems analysis group in behalf of IAC as a whole. (See RECOMMENDATION 3.) This concept was originally favored by all members of the Committee except the Air Force member. The Air Force member felt that individual agencies should sponsor professional weapon systems analyses in fields within their individual competence, believing that the problems of arriving at assumptions and managing the analysis were too formidable to be handled on an inter-agency basis. The majority felt that the broad problems of Soviet weapon systems requirements were beyond the scope of any single agency. Moreover, past experience has indicated that the results of weapon systems analyses performed under the auspices of individual agencies are often challenged by other agencies on the ground that the assertions have been slanted. The majority recognized these problems, but felt that the effort required to solve them on an interagency basis would

itself be beneficial. This difference of opinion was resolved by adding RECOMMENDATION 4, which requires that an attempt be made to draw up terms of reference on an interagency basis before actually contracting with a professional weapon systems analysis.

3. Use of WSEG. (See RECOMMENDATIONS 4 and 5.) All members except the Air Force member originally favored an immediate approach to WSEG, on the ground that it is the only officially constituted, interagency weapon systems analysis group, and that it is therefore appropriate for the IAC to deal with this group in attempting to solve its community-wide problems. The Air Force member was reluctant to single out WSEG, and felt that a contract should be let only after receiving bids from, or at least consulting with, other weapon systems analysis groups. This difference was resolved in RECOMMENDATION 4 by leaving open the question of which group should perform the analysis, although an initial request to WSEG for preliminary guidance is proposed in RECOMMENDATION 5.

4. Although the Air Force member has not formally reserved his position on the RECOMMENDATIONS as now written, I believe that a dissent by General Lewis remains a distinct possibility.

Lt. Gen USA (Ret.)
Acting Chairman, Board of National Estimates

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