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Memorandum*

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1 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Comments of Princeton Consultants on Proposed Freedom Academy and Proposed Academy of National Policy

NOTE: The following memorandum summarizes for the record the responses of the Consultants at their 21-22 May 1959 session at Princeton to your request for comments on a proposed Freedom Academy to train "Cold War specialists" in Democracy and International Communism and a proposed Academy of National Policy to assist the NSC.

1. At the 21 May session of the Princeton Consultants, the Director requested comments on the ideas of establishing a Freedom Academy to train "Cold War specialists" in Democracy and in International Communism, and of creating an Academy of National Policy to assist the NSC. He attributed these proposals to Senator Henry Jackson, inter alia, mentioned that they had considerable support, and requested advice on shooting them down.

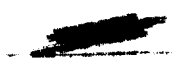
2. It was the general consensus of the assembled consultants, led by Messrs. Kennan, Strayer, Millikan and Lincoln, that the idea of a Freedom Academy was basically unsound. Max Millikan, in particular, felt that setting up this kind of institution would be precisely the wrong way to attack the Cold War, which he characterized as a phase in the history of international relations which should be studied in that context rather than as something that could be liquidated by gimmicks. He indicated that the main points needing further basic study were not the cold war and Communism per se but such questions as the best forms of government for newly independent underdeveloped states. George Kennan labelled the proposal "outrageous," primarily on the ground that such a venture would involve either raiding the universities for the relatively few teachers skilled in these matters or being content with only mediocre ones. Millikan, Harold Linder, and others expressed some sympathy for Cyril Black's suggestion



that something akin to the National Science Foundation might be set up for the social sciences, as a means of marshaling scholarly resources and thus countering the intellectual in-breeding which was likely to arise among government people working on a wholly classified basis. However, it was felt that the idea of a purely governmental institution was wrong.

3. There was general opposition to the idea of an Academy of National Policy attached to the NSC, as well as to the proposed "Freedom Academy," on the ground that any proliferation of governmental machinery was undesirable and not itself a solution. However, Kennan suggested that it might be desirable to set up a series of brief lecture and discussion courses along the lines of the new advanced course at the Foreign Service Institute or the National War College curriculum, but of shorter duration and with attendance voluntary - which key members of Congress and of the Executive Branch could attend together. This, he believed, would meet a legitimate need expressed by Senator Jackson. Such courses, Kennan concluded, should be on a nominally classified basis, but, of course, with anticipation of "leaks" on the data presented and discussed.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates



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