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DDI-1642-64

April 9, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
3 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 1964

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, The Attorney General, Mr. Vance, Mr. McCone,
Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Gaud vice Mr. Bell, General Anthis vice General
Taylor

Ambassador Stephansky and Mr. Engle were present for Item No. 2.

Governor Williams and Mr. Oulashin were present for Items 3 and 4.

Mr. Nolan and Mr. Maechling were present for the meeting.

1. Counterinsurgency Intelligence Summary

Mr. McCone began by stating that the Pathet Lao are continuing activities around Tha Thom and in Sam Neua province. The Chinese Communists reportedly are moving some forces into the border areas in Northwest Laos in support of Pathet Lao efforts to combat rising opposition among tribal elements in Nam Tha Province. There is nothing else of significance except that the trail watchers have reported the southward movement of about 2,000 Pathet Lao/Viet Cong troops.

Both forces in Ethiopia/Somalia have apparently pulled back and are observing the cease-fire agreement reasonably well. We expect sporadic outbursts-- but hope the situation will eventually normalize.

Mr. McCone said that in Zanzibar, the situation is still moving toward the left and Babu is increasingly in control, assisted by his well-placed lieutenants and informers. Governor Harriman commented that the situation is going very badly and that we are depending on the East African countries to take more of a lead.

In Venezuela, indications are that we can soon expect a higher level of terrorism than we have seen in the last several months.

At the present time, the problems in Bolivia seem to be political. Lechin has requested support from Castro, who has dispatched a man to discuss the subject with Lechin. It is hoped that Paz can keep the situation in hand.

In Colombia, the Army is about to launch a new campaign against Communists' centers in Tolima State, southwest of Bogota.

In Ecuador, the Communist Party has completely failed in its efforts to organize effective urban and rural guerrilla operations. Former President Arosemena appears to be planning an insurrection about the 15th of April. It is not expected to succeed.

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Cuban trained Panamanian revolutionaries are continuing preparations for armed activity. There is concern over Secretary Dillon's proposed trip to Panama, but it seems inappropriate at this time to alter his plans.

Mr. McCone stated that there is no question but that the recent cache of weapons found in Argentina were of Cuban origin, and this is an indication that more such arms will probably appear in Latin American countries. So far, however, the Argentine authorities seem capable of handling the threat. A question was raised as to the advisability of presenting a case to the OAS similar to the Venezuelan resolution if the facts so warranted. This idea will be explored by State.

2. Report on Effects of FY 1964 AID Appropriations, and the Planned Phase-out of Development Grants on Public Safety Programs

In reviewing the AID Report for the members, Mr. Gaud commented that there is no shortage of funds for the police programs this year but the outlook for '65 is questionable.

Mr. Forrestal asked how AID intended to handle police programs in certain countries during the planned phase-outs of grant assistance if for political and security reasons it seemed advisable for them to be continued. Mr. Gaud replied that these phase-outs would not automatically affect on-going police programs; in each case a separate determination will be made as to whether these programs would be continued.

Mr. Forrestal also desired to know if allocation of funds and personnel for public safety programs will continue to be given adequate emphasis and not suffer from competition with economic programs. Mr. Gaud replied that efforts are continuing to impress on Mission Directors, as well as regional offices and other interested people in AID, the importance of public safety programs to internal security.

Mr. Gaud then announced that in the future the Director of the Office of Public Safety would report directly to the Administrator who would resolve funding or other problems concerning public safety programs.

Governor Harriman questioned the rationale of the selection of African countries for police assistance programs. He further commented that we should give more attention to Africa in both police assistance and MAP.

Mr. Gaud, in response to a question, stated that the Congressional reaction to the public safety program is good but that, due to the classification, only certain Committees were aware of the program in its entirety. The Chairman commented that these programs were highly sensitive and should be handled carefully before Congress and the public.

The Group noted the report, with the understanding that AID will keep the Group informed on any changes.

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3. Reappraisal of the Internal Security Assessment for Africa

Governor Williams presented the report previously circulated. He reviewed current areas of instability in Africa, commenting that he was particularly concerned over developments in Zanzibar, Somalia, Burundi, and Congo Brazzaville. He also stated that Congo Leopoldville would be a dangerous situation after departure of the UN forces, while in Ethiopia internal security rested largely on the continued wellbeing of the Emperor. Generally, instability in Africa was mainly due to its backwardness rather than to Communist subversion; the Communists, especially the Chinese in East Africa, are always ready to exploit any unrest, however.

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The Chairman commented that in his recent trip to the Congo (L) he had found the situation somewhat better than he had expected; with adequate cooperation between ourselves, the Belgians, and the local government, there is every expectation that the situation can be stabilized.

After discussion, and in accordance with Mr. Forrestal's recommendation, the Group approved the courses of action listed in the Summary of the Assessment and requested Governor Williams to consider whether the NSAM incorporating the main points should be prepared to carry out these objectives. In this connection, and at the suggestion of Mr. McCone, Governor Williams agreed to rewrite Course of Action No. 4 to bring the desirability of cooperation between the U.S. and European powers in Africa more in line with practical possibilities. He also intends to have Annex D rewritten.

The Group then discussed the desirability of bringing further areas of Africa under its surveillance. After discussion, and upon recommendation by Governor Williams, it was agreed that (a) Internal Defense Plans should be prepared for Ethiopia and the Congo (L) in accordance with scheduling to be determined by Governor Williams and the African Policy Committee; and (b) the Group should maintain continuing surveillance of developments in Zanzibar, Somalia, Burundi, and Congo (B) so that we may be able to respond quickly with a coordinated assistance program in the event developments so require.

The Chairman commented that the Assessment is an excellent paper and requested that it be given wide circulation within the departments and agencies represented on the Group.

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(A. D. O.)

4. Report on Extent and Type of Training Being Provided to Africans in the U.S. and the Free World

In commenting on the circulated report, Mr. Maechling stated that over 32,000 Africans were being trained in the West as against 6,000 by the Bloc. Moreover this figure does not include additional Africans being trained in Germany, Belgium, and Ireland.

Governor Williams commented on the necessity of giving technical training to Africans not qualified for university studies.

C. G. Moody, Jr.
C. G. MOODY, JR.
Executive Secretary
Special Group (CI)

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