



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Irvin Stewart, Chairman  
President's Communications Policy Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Stewart:

Reference is made to Mr. Thomson's letter dated 16 October 1950 requesting that the President's Communications Policy Board be furnished with an expression of the views of the Central Intelligence Agency on matters relative to the broad mission of the Board. The opportunity to comment on some of the broader aspects of the problems involved in the Board's study is greatly appreciated.

It is believed that the planned approach indicated by P. C. P. B. Publication #1 presents a comprehensive outline of the basic problems. When fully developed it should provide a sound basis for the accomplishment of the Board's mission in the formulation of a national telecommunications policy.

In order to avoid a continuation of the situation which prompted the establishment of the President's Communications Policy Board, it is essential that policies once formulated and adopted be effectively executed. A centralization of authority in the administration of matters within the telecommunications field would be a major move in this direction. Appraisal of the several existing mechanisms now functioning in this field indicates that no one agency is empowered with sufficient scope of cognizance and authority to provide the required overall direction.

Accordingly, the establishment of an independent Communications Policy Board within the Executive structure of the Government is considered necessary and desirable. The broad functions of this Board would be to develop, review, and evaluate telecommunications policy and make recommendations thereon to the President. It would also provide force and direction to the application of such policies and afford a positive means for the correlation of the multiple demands made upon communications resources.

*Handwritten notes and scribbles:*  
- Large diagonal line across the middle of the page.  
- "See 24 Nov 1950" written in the lower right.  
- "Review of the situation" written in the middle.  
- "OK" written in the middle.

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The increasing responsibilities and commitments of the United States in world affairs require that positive action be taken to develop a strong and efficient system of commercial communications overseas controlled by United States interests. This Agency is fully aware of the many difficulties encountered in past attempts to attain this objective through merger of existing companies. However, it is believed that a realistic survey will indicate that such an approach constitutes the most logical solution. Merger of these facilities would afford a healthy and stable international communications system, capable of competing favorably with foreign owned and operated communications agencies in time of peace and of supporting military requirements in time of national emergency.

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