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5 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEFS ALL AREA AND IO DIVISIONS
ATTENTION: PP OFFICERS
SUBJECT: Interim Propaganda Guidance on Stalin's Death

1. The following is an interim propaganda guidance designed to deal with the period prior to and immediately following Stalin's death. The propaganda themes are grouped together under appropriate target audiences but this should not exclude using them to other targets which the field considers suitable.

2. Use of themes conducive to creating an atmosphere of apprehension among Soviet and satellite representatives abroad should be closely coordinated with operations aimed at defecting such officials.

3. PROPAGANDA THEMES:

A. To the Soviet Union:

1. The people of the free world sympathize with the Soviet people in the privations they have endured in the past and hope that Stalin's death will give the peoples of the USSR an opportunity to have a type of government responsive to their desires for freedom, justice and peace.

2. Stalin's passing from power offers his successor an opportunity to reorient Soviet foreign policy in the direction of sincere international cooperation and permanent peace. Such a peace would enable the Soviet Union to realize all its potentialities as a great, rich nation and would bring to the Soviet peoples a better life and a position of security in the family of nations.

B. To the Satellites:

1. Stalin's death means that there will be a new dictator in the USSR bent on entrenching his power by appointing only men of his choosing to responsible positions throughout the Soviet orbit. He will therefore purge officials, high and low, in the satellite governments and replace them with his own men. Since no one can be sure how the power struggle in the Kremlin will come out, all current officials are possible targets for purge.

2. Protestings a

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2. Protesting a devotion to the precepts of Stalinism will protect no Communist from dismissal by the new leader. As Lenin adapted Marx to his purposes and as Stalin adapted Marx and Lenin to his purposes, so the new dictator will adapt Marx, Lenin and Stalin to his own ends and any whose former actions have not been consonant with the new party line will be purged. The ideological instability of Communism is in itself a threat to those who seek refuge in toeing the party line.

3. There are many indications that Chinese Communist leader, Mao Tse-Tung, will inherit Stalin's position as top Communist leader and Stalin himself cited Mao's theoretical works as valuable contributions to Communist theory. This will mean that the Soviet orbit countries of Eastern Europe will be governed by an Asian despot and that all their energies will be geared toward increasing the world-wide prestige of China.

C. To Non-Orbit Communist Parties:

1. Indicate that subservience to Moscow can no longer be considered as ideological allegiance to Stalin, the prophet of Marx-Leninism, and will now become anti-national fifth column activity for a foreign power.

2. Also play themes 2 and 3 under B above.

D. To the Free World:

1. Speculate that with Stalin's death the situation in the Soviet Union is so unsettled that the free world must increase its efforts for mutual defense as a deterrent to any more blatantly aggressive policy the new Soviet leadership might favor.

2. Suggest that the Kremlin power group headed by Malenkov is responsible for undersaving Stalin's health and arranged the Doctor's purge to serve as an a priority cover for Stalin's eventual demise.

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Chief
Psychological Warfare Division

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