

INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1950, IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
 - Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
 - Mr. Phillips
 Department of Defense - General Magruder
 Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
 National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
 Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted]

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Mr. Barrett opened the meeting by referring to the question of identification of Chinese Communist participation in the Korean war, which had been raised at the previous meeting. He reported that he had reviewed the policy question with Mr. Matthews, Mr. Kennan, Mr. Joyce and others. On policy grounds, it was considered unnecessary and probably unwise to identify Chinese Communist participation in overt propaganda at this time, as the intelligence is not conclusive and as we believe that we have enough support to defeat the admission of Communist China to the Security Council. Mr. Barrett reported that it was also felt that no decision should be taken to use covert channels for the present, although this aspect was not fully explored.

25X1A [redacted] asked whether covert use of this line might not be used effectively in certain limited areas. Admiral Stevens felt that Mr. [redacted] organization has not been used as fully as it could be and that they should be free to operate without directly involving the Government. Mr. Phillips referred to a suggestion that we might give circulation to reports or rumors that the Soviets do not actually want to seat the Chinese Communists in the UN. Mr. Barrett saw no objection to this on policy grounds and undertook to review the policy question of limited covert use with Mr. Hickerman.

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The Executive Secretary circulated a draft cable to CINCPAC suggesting that that two or three representatives might visit Tokyo to review the psychological warfare needs on the spot. After brief discussion the telegram was approved.

Mr. Barrett distributed copies of a draft announcement to be given to the Press by the State Department on the strengthening of the existing machinery for coordinating psychological warfare measures. After discussion and minor revisions of the text, the statement was approved.

The question of handling of communications on psychological warfare was reviewed and the Executive Secretary noted that he and Col. Philbin were working on a plan to insure prompt distribution of all communications on this subject.

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Mr. Barrott asked for general discussion of his memorandum of August 14 outlining proposed steps for strengthening the Foreign Information Organization. Admiral Stevens felt that we were complicating a fairly simple problem. He thought that the State Department policy unit (P/POL) had been weak on plans and IFIS had been weak on policy. Both functions, he felt, needed strengthening and might be combined. General Magruder thought that the statement was concerned too much with the organization of existing staff units and that we needed a clear, simple statement of functions. Mr. Phillips outlined the present functions of P/POL and stressed the importance of working groups or task forces for specific planning projects. After further discussion, it was agreed that the State Department would simplify the statement of functions for further discussion at the next meeting.

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Before adjourning, [] asked whether it would be appropriate for this group to consider the following specific matters:

1. A British proposal that [] be prepared to discuss such matters as the use of frequencies in connection with stepping up propaganda measures in their forthcoming discussions in []
2. The question of motion pictures.
3. The use of balloons for various propaganda purposes.
4. Question of coordinating research projects conducted by Rand Corporation.

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It was agreed that these were appropriate matters for consideration and that they would be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

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