

INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director  
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary  
Mr. Sargeant  
Mr. Hulten  
Mr. Oechsner  
Mr. Phillips  
Mr. MacKnight  
Department of Defense - General Magruder  
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens  
Department of the Army - General McClure  
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard  
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Drummond  
Mr. Mullen  
Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted]

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With respect to Item I on the agenda, [redacted] gave the Chairman copies of an outline of the OPC balloon project and, under the terms of the decision at the meeting of September 13, requested a general authorization for OPC to continue to engage in it.

General Magruder, with agreement by Admiral Stevens, felt that the decision taken at the meeting of September 13, making any project for the future employment of balloons subject to prior authorization by the Board, went too far. He felt that policy decisions on such matters were the proper prerogative of the Department of State, but that such policy decisions should be transmitted to OPC by the State Department consultant with OPC. It was, of course, not up to the Board to indicate where policy decisions should be reached within the State Department.

Mr. Barrett observed that it would be decided in State which particular division, board, or other unit was to make decisions on matters of policy, and what channel was to be used for notifying other departments and agencies of such decisions.

Admiral Stevens, with agreement by General McClure, felt that the Strategy Board's function was to coordinate between overt and covert matters, but not to rule on the techniques for executing policy decisions; he felt the present instance to be such a ruling on techniques.

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Mr. Sheppard suggested that the Strategy Board might make a general decision in such matters as that under discussion, and ask that it thereafter be advised of any major operating or policy decisions relating to it.

Admiral Stevens proposed that the Strategy Board's prohibition on the use of balloons without further authorization, should remain in force, and that the OPC Consultants Committee should review OPC's project in the light of this prohibition, OPC to show cause why it should not come within the general prohibition.

Mr. Barrett agreed with this proposal and felt that the findings of the OPC Consultants Committee should be communicated to the Strategy Board, and that the Strategy Board be consulted before major new projects and policies in this field (balloons) be undertaken by any agency.

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thereupon withdrew his paper.

Following general discussion, Mr. Barrett proposed that balloon projects be reviewed periodically every few weeks, the next review to be one month hence.

With respect to Item II of the agenda, Mr. Stone reported that IFIS had reviewed existing procedures for coordination of information policy guidances at a special meeting attended by Mr. Phillips and Mr. Oren Stephens. General agreement had been reached on the procedures for coordinating each type of guidance and a written statement was being prepared and would be circulated to members of the Board.

With respect to agenda Item III, Mr. Stone reported that the Department of the Army had coordinated and cleared a telegram to CINCFE on October 5 suggesting certain categories of intelligence useful to psychological warfare planning in line with the recommendation of the Board at its last meeting. Mr. Phillips reported briefly on policy questions regarding the public announcement of the UN resolution on Korea. Mr. Phillips called attention to a reorientation directive which he understood had been sent to General MacArthur, but had apparently not been coordinated with the Public Affairs area of the State Department. General McClure indicated he was aware of the directive but did not know whether it had been sent. Mr. Phillips asked whether the Board felt that reorientation and re-education sections of the directive should come before the Board. Mr. Barrett indicated that, if a review of the directive made this

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desirable, the Board should consider it. In this connection Admiral Stevens asked about the status of the psychological warfare plan for Korea. Mr. Stone reported that the working group under Lt. Col. Davis hoped to complete the plan within the next week or ten days. Mr. Barrett asked that every effort be made to complete this project by the next meeting.

Turning to Item IV of the agenda, Mr. Sargeant reported that the Foreign Military Assistance Coordinating Committee, of which General Lemnitzer is Chairman, had requested the views of the Board on a paper relating to information activities in connection with the expanded military aid program. Mr. Sargeant stated that the paper, copies of which had been sent to members of the Board, recommended a new appraisal of public affairs policy in this field and an immediate step-up of information activities relating to MDAP and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He pointed out that the paper raised a question of policy, with respect to the need for review of information objectives of MDAP and NAT in relation to our overall foreign policy objectives, and a question of the most effective coordination of overseas information facilities. After general discussion, it was agreed that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Board on October 16, and that the members of the MDAP Public Information Committee be invited to attend.

Mr. Barrett referred to the MIT research project and said that he would report on this subject at the next meeting.

Mr. Barrett suggested that it might be useful for members of the Board to see at first hand some of the current State Department information operations and asked Mr. Hulten to make arrangements for a visit to VOA in New York, and other State Department information activities.

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