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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL
FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY
OCTOBER 16, IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Oechsner
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
Department of the Army - General McClure
Central Intelligence Agency [redacted] 25X1A
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Mullen
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard

Present for discussion of item I on the agenda:

Department of State - Mr. Ohly
Mr. Hilton (FMACC)
Mr. Sargeant
Mr. Frye
Department of Defense - Mr. Adams (FMACC)
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Tobler

In opening the discussion of Item I of the agenda, Mr. Barrett asked the Executive Secretary to introduce members of the FMACC Information Committee and others present for this subject. Following a brief summary of the paper on Information Activities of MDAP, referred to the Board for its views, Mr. Barrett suggested a general discussion of broad policy objectives and called upon members of the Board for their comments.

Admiral Stevens expressed general agreement with the need for increased information activities and stated that he assumed information relating to MDAP would be distributed through existing information outlets and would make use of U. S. public information facilities already set up.

General McClure endorsed the need for increasing emphasis on the military aid program as part of our overall objective to build up the defenses in Europe.

General Magruder, while agreeing with the philosophy expressed in the paper stressed the need for putting specific information objectives into proper perspective in relation to our fundamental policy objectives. He felt that a new appraisal of policy and procedures was desirable and necessary. He asked how additional information specialists would be recruited and paid for.

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[] thought that a vigorous information program in support of our basic policy was important. Regarding the means of implementation, he asked whether it was clear that new personnel would be assigned to existing information staffs.

Mr. Ohly, after commenting on the need for a new appraisal of public information policy, said that it was his understanding that personnel would be assigned to the Public Affairs Staffs in our Embassies. He noted that there was some question as to how regional coordination could be achieved, but indicated there was general agreement on the necessity for coordination of information activities in Western Europe.

Mr. Adams stressed the need for shifting our emphasis in Europe to the central theme of "survival" and indicated a number of special projects which could be carried out to encourage popular support in MDAP countries. He thought there was a special need to build up morale of troops.

Mr. Hilton, in response to further questions about the organizational arrangements for new information specialists, confirmed Mr. Ohly's understanding that additional personnel would be assigned to the Public Affairs staffs at our Embassies.

Following further discussion, there was general agreement that a new appraisal of public information policy and procedures was both desirable and necessary. The consensus was that information activities regarding MDAP and NAT should be intensified as an essential part of our overall information in support of the basic objectives of U. S. foreign policy. It was felt that MDAP information activities cannot be regarded as a separate information problem but must be closely related to our overall foreign policy aims and those of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Activities in this field must be effectively integrated with the U. S. foreign information program. It was understood that information specialists required for MDAP-NAT would be assigned to the Public Affairs Offices of U. S. Embassies and would be paid for by the Department of State.

With respect to item II of the agenda, Mr. Stone submitted a report on the status of the Korea plan, which is being developed by the working group under Lt. Col. Davis. He summarized the working group draft, noting those sections which had been completed in draft form and those which still remained to be completed and coordinated by the working group. He suggested that when Col Young and Col. Bonnaker returned they might be invited to assist the working group in completing its plan.

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General McClure reported that Col. Van Wagoner of the Army Reorientation Branch, had returned from a survey trip to Tokyo and might also be helpful to the working group. It was apparent he said that there would be a need for new equipment for the propaganda and reorientation task in North Korea. General McClure also noted that a reply had been received from Tokyo to the directive on reorientation.

Mr. Barrett said that his talk with Mr. Connors confirmed General McClure's opinion regarding the need for personnel and equipment in the next phase of the Korean operation.

Mr. Mullen offered the assistance of Mr. Edward Johnson, the ECA representative in Korea, who has returned to Washington this week.

Admiral Stevens strongly emphasized the need for producing a plan, even though it might be incomplete, before events in Korea overtake us. In response to a question by Mr. Stone, it was agreed that the plan might be simplified by omitting some sections dealing with objectives and themes in other parts of the world. There was general agreement that the plan should be completed in draft form as soon as possible for review by the Board.

With respect to item III on the agenda, Mr. Barret introduced Mr. Davidson Taylor who reported on the MIT research project. Mr. Taylor stated that the advance group is arriving in Washington this week and that briefing sessions will be held in Washington from October 23 to October 28, starting with Mr. Webb and Mr. Barrett and including area, media and technical briefing. Admiral Stevens will participate in the briefing on October 27 and arrangements are being made for participation by representatives of other departments and agencies.

After completion of briefing in Washington, the group will devote a week to fixing priorities and developing terms of reference for specific tasks. February 1, 1951, has been set as the target date for completion of the final report. Mr. Taylor indicated, however, that there would be interim reports, including a report on jamming.

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[redacted] asked whether the group would be briefed on security and whether they will be concerned with covert projects. In response to the first question, Mr. Taylor stated that the group was being cleared for top secret and briefed by Mr. Nicholson, State Department Security Officer. Regarding the second question, Mr. Barrett

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indicated that the group would not be directly concerned with covert activities, but he recognized that they would necessarily be lead to inquire into possible covert means of penetrating the Iron Curtain. Mr. Barrett saw no reason to inform the group in detail of current covert activities or even to indicate what agency was concerned with this field. He suggested that [redacted] might consider whether it would be desirable to have one of his men available for briefing. [redacted] said he would consider this.

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Mr. Barrett also indicated the probable need for a plausible cover for this project, and suggested that the members of the group might be described as working on "improving communications techniques."

Mr. Mullen asked whether the Board would be interested in authorizing a survey of Japanese propaganda methods in South East Asia, which might produce basic information useful in China and other areas of the Far East. He reported a conversation which he had had with a man recently returned from service with SCAP, who might be in a position to undertake such a survey.

General McClure noted that ORO is undertaking research in Korea and suggested that other intelligence sources might be checked. Mr. Barrett proposed that this matter be deferred to the next meeting and asked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Stone to look into availability of current intelligence in this field.

Admiral Stevens said that he had taken a closer look at the question as to whether the Navy might operate a floating transmitter. It appears that this might be possible in time of peace, provided that some other department would be able to carry the cost of operation and maintenance. He indicated, however, that the problem in time of war would be much more difficult. Mr. Stone was requested to inform Mr. Hulten and Mr. Kohler of Admiral Stevens' comments.

Before adjourning the meeting Mr. Barrett referred briefly to the need for exploring new methods in the propaganda field in support of U. S. objectives. He had in mind the possibility of developing concerted measures, or campaigns, directed to specific targets and utilizing all available means at our disposal. For example, one target would be the communist theme of the "infallibility of the Kremlin." Another target would be to undermine the Soviet hold in the Satellites. After brief discussion, it was agreed to consider this problem at a future meeting.

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