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Copy No. 11

PSB M-5

M I N U T E S

Fifth Meeting of the
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
November 15, 1951, 2:30 p.m.
Room 3E924, Pentagon Building

MEMBERS:

General Walter B. Smith, Director of Central Intelligence, Chairman
Honorable William C. Foster, Deputy Secretary of Defense
Honorable Edward W. Barrett, Assistant Secretary of State
(Acting for Mr. Webb)
Mr. Gordon Gray, Director, Psychological Strategy Board

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Department of State

Mr. Vincent C. Wilber

Department of Defense

Brig. General John A. Magruder (Retired)

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Brig. General Jesmond D. Balmer, USA

Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Frank G. Wisner

Economic Cooperation Administration

Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Acting Administrator
(Present for the early portion of the meeting.)

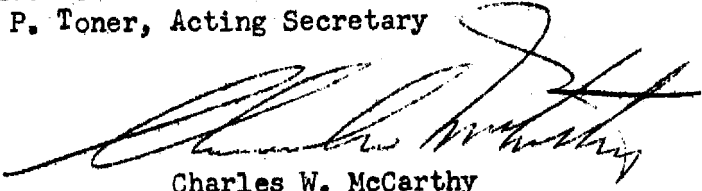
Psychological Strategy Board Staff

Colonel Charles W. McCarthy, USA

Captain Richard N. Antrim, USN, (Left after Item #5)

Mr. J. Wallace Carroll

Mr. Albert P. Toner, Acting Secretary


Charles W. McCarthy
Colonel, USA
Executive Officer

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NSC review(s) completed.

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Agenda Item 3 - Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations During General Hostilities (PSB D-8a)

Action: 1. Final action was deferred until an early meeting of the Board. After PSB approves the paper, the Director will return it to the NSC for approval.

2. Paragraph 11 was revised to read as follows: Strike the version at the bottom of page 5 and retain the version at the top of page 6,

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with these changes: in 11a delete "guidance" and add instructions. Retain 11b as it is and amend 11c as follows: "Conduct their operations in the field under the senior US military commander in military theaters of operations, and coordinate their operations in the field with chiefs of US diplomatic missions in areas other than theaters of operation".

Discussion: It was fully understood that all official personnel in a military theater in time of war are under the theater commander. Mr. Barrett explained that the second portions of paragraphs 11b and 11c are considered necessary by the State Department and represent normal government procedure.

Mr. Foster asked that final action be withheld until the receipt of JCS comments, which he said would be expedited. The Chairman pointed out that every effort had been made to take into account the interests of the JCS in the drafting of the paper.

Mr. Barrett suggested that the paper could be subject to future amendments, if required. He also reported that legal advisers in the Department of State believe that guidance is adequate for 11a, page 6, and that "instruction" is inappropriate. The Chairman said that the question goes back to the genesis of the Board itself. He said that the President wanted a level of membership which would mean ipso facto that actions of the participating agencies would follow upon Board agreements. The Chairman also believed that the work "instructions" should be specified in 11a to insure the proper relationship with non-member agencies, particularly any new agencies which might be established in time of war.

Mr. Barrett stated that he would like to point out for the record that there has been a little confusion as a result of the use of the word "guidance" in several places in this paper (e.g. paragraph 6 1 (a)). Within the government psychological operating fields the word guidance has a common usage as applied to the regular documents which are put out daily, weekly and on special occasions to guide operators on what they should and should not say in output. This, of course, is different from the use of the term "guidance" in the President's directive. Further, he would like the minutes to show what the Director said informally the other day: That the use of the word in this document is not intended to affect in any way the present procedures for issuing information policy guidances to the Voice of America and other operators in this field.

Agenda Item 4 - National Overt Propaganda Policy Guidance for General War
(PSB D-11/a)

Action: The Board approved this paper with the substitution of reconstruction for "stability" in page 11, paragraph 2.

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Discussion: Mr. Gray introduced the paper and called attention to changes made since the previous draft. Mr. Barrett proposed reconstruction rather than "stability" in page 11, paragraph 2.

Agenda Item 5 - PSB Staff Draft of Paragraphs on "Psychological Strategy in the Ensuing Years" submitted to Senior NSC Staff for Consideration of Inclusion and Reappraisal in NSC 68 and 114 Series

Copies of this paper were distributed to the members and alternates for information at the time the draft was forwarded to the Senior Staff of NSC. No action was required.

Agenda Item 6 - Report on Foreign Reaction to the President's Proposal for an Arms Reduction Study

Mr. Barrett said that the effect of the speech within the United Nations has been generally good. Its propaganda impact on free countries was materially aided by the Vishinsky response, which drew criticism in about half of the speeches of representatives of the free countries. Outside of the UN, the President's speech has also been of benefit to the cause of peace.

Some experts see in the Vishinsky reaction and the recent Beria speech indications of uncertainty and lack of confidence in the Kremlin. Other signs in support of this hypothesis include the unusually slow reaction time of the Kremlin to outside propaganda initiatives.

Agenda Item 7 - Report on the Work in which the PSB Staff is now Engaged.

Mr. Gray presented a brief status report for the information of the Board. The staff study on publicity with respect to novel weapons was to be distributed to the Board following the meeting and he hoped that it might be considered at the next meeting. Preparation of plans for integrated operations for the reduction of Communist power in France and Italy is in progress.

Mr. Gray also raised the possibility of a long-range study by the Board of the subject of a major relaxation of East-West tensions. It was the consensus that this subject should be investigated further before it can be determined whether to undertake the study.

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Agenda Item 8 - Briefing of Functions and Organization of the PSB Staff

This item was postponed.

Postagenda Item:

Mr. Gray stated that after making a careful review of the requirements for staff for the balance of Fiscal Year 1952 and for Fiscal Year 1953, he proposed a staff of 73 for FY 1952 and 79 in FY 1953. He further stated that these figures represent reductions from the staff of 79 previously authorized by the Psychological Strategy Board for FY 1952 and from 99 previously proposed by the Director for FY 1953. The revised dollar estimate for FY 1952 is now \$407,687 and for FY 1953 is \$536,050. However, both of these figures are subject to analysis by the Bureau of the Budget and may require some amendment as a result of such analysis. Moreover, neither figure includes the supplemental pay costs resulting from Public Law 201.

Action: The Board approved the proposed level of staffing for FY 1952 and FY 1953 and approved the financial estimates for presentation by the Director to the Bureau of the Budget.

(End)

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