

*Benjamin*

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*OLC-78-1133*

23 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with George Kroloff; New International Information Order

1. On 22 March [Redacted] and I met with George Kroloff, a staff member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We were joined by [Redacted] of OSI and [Redacted] of the Intelligence Community Staff, and by [Redacted] of the Office of Legislative Council.

2. Kroloff had asked for the meeting to discuss the issues that are raised in a staff study he recently prepared that looks at various international trends in the area of communications and information transmission that may affect US foreign policy. These issues include:

- efforts by a combination of LDC and communist countries in UNESCO to curb reporting by journalists, particularly those belonging to AP, UPI, and Reuters;
- preparations for the World Administrative Radio Conference in the fall of 1979 that will reassign allocations for use of the entire radio frequency spectrum; and
- consideration, by the major European nations, to impose controls, for commercial, and domestic political purposes on transborder data flows. If implemented such controls could cut sharply into the competitive position of the multi-billion dollar US computer and communications industries.

3. In addition to discussing the substantive issues raised above I explained the role that International Issues Division has taken on information issues. We recognize the growing problem of

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restrictions on information flows as one dimension of the pattern of relations between the US and the developing countries. All of our analysts will keep this dimension in mind as they continue to study the political dynamics of US-LDC relations. We have not addressed communications and information issues per se, and at present have no plans to do so. I further explained that the impact of information issues on US relations with the Western Europeans and the communist countries would be taken into consideration as part of our work but that ORPA had no plans, to my knowledge, for specific projects in this area.

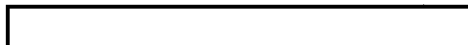
4. The meeting with Kroloff went well. He repeatedly said that he would like to keep in contact with us as he helps the committee members draft legislation that affect information policy. Kroloff's expertise in this area made discussion with him useful and I would be delighted to meet with him from time to time.



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