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EIC-M-54
11 May 1956

ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Special Meeting Held in
Room 2125, Temporary "M" Building
26th Street and Constitution Avenue, N. W.

3 May 1956 at 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT

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Dr. Otto E. Guthe, CIA, Chairman
[REDACTED], CIA
Colonel William C. Baird, Air Force
Mr. Frank M. Charretts, ICA
Mr. B. V. S. Davis, Navy
Mr. Edward Doherty, State
Mr. John W. Easton, JCS
Mr. Herbert Glantz, State
Mr. Kingsley W. Hamilton, Air Force
Commander Robert L. Hawthorne, Navy
Mr. J. Duncan Holmes, Army

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[REDACTED], CIA
Mr. Fred S. Lott, Interior
Captain Warren E. Oliver, OSD
Mr. Frank H. Whitehouse, OSD
Mr. Baxter Wood, Army

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[REDACTED], EIC, Principal Staff Economist
[REDACTED], EIC, Executive Secretary

Middle East Oil Situation

1. Discussion: The Chairman explained that this special meeting had been called to expedite transmission of at least a preliminary report on the Middle East oil situation to the NSC Planning Board for its 7 May meeting, in accordance with the request of Mr. Dillon Anderson to the Deputy Director for Intelligence, CIA. On hearing of this request the Working Group which the EIC had established to make recommendations as to the nature of a study on Middle East Oil had submitted a preliminary paper concurred in by all members, and this had now been circulated to the EIC members together with drafts of a proposed foreword and a memorandum of transmittal.

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In the ensuing discussion the Chairman and other members expressed appreciation of the efforts of the Working Group under the pressure of such a short deadline. There was agreement that estimates of possible political consequences should be deleted throughout the report, and several revisions were made in wordings of the letter of transmittal and of the foreword. The question was raised as to whether the paper, even though clearly identified as "preliminary", should not be forwarded through the IAC rather than directly transmitted to the NSC Planning Board.

2. Action: Representatives of the agencies which had participated on the Working Group approved the paper, as revised, for direct transmission to the DD/I, for such use as he considered appropriate -- together with a statement that "if required a more fully coordinated report will be issued by the EIC". Representatives of JCS, Navy and Army, however, reserved their positions until they could check further with their agencies. [Subsequently (on 3 May 1956) Army approved transmittal of the paper as proposed. JCS and Navy, however, believed it should not be directly transmitted without IAC clearance. Meanwhile the Executive Secretary of the NSC Planning Board indicated that the Board had agreed to postpone its discussion of the subject until 14 May, to allow time for fuller coordination. Accordingly another special EIC meeting on the paper was scheduled for 8 May at 9:30 A.M.]


Executive Secretary
Economic Intelligence Committee

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