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CONTROL NO. 3896

24 March 1966

EIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Minutes of Meeting Held in  
4F21 CIA Langley Headquarters  
22 March 1966

Present

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[REDACTED] CIA, Chairman  
Mrs. Luba Richter, State  
Mr. Frank Ellis, AID  
Mr. Kenneth Anderson, DIA  
Mr. Donald Chrisler, USDA  
Mr. Donald Smith, USDA  
Mr. Dave Smedley, Commerce

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[REDACTED], CIA  
[REDACTED], CIA  
[REDACTED], CIA, Secretary

1. The activities and continuing utility of the subcommittee were discussed, and it was unanimously recommended that the agricultural subcommittee not only be retained but that its activities be expanded. In spite of the infrequency of formal activity it was recognized that the subcommittee should continue as a formally constituted body. The problems arising from the population explosion, food problems in Communist countries, problems with less developed countries whose economies are primarily agricultural present the subcommittee with new challenges, and, indeed, make it imperative that members of the intelligence community and other interested government agencies cooperate even more closely than in the past.

2. The research programs or agriculturally-oriented research projects were presented by the constituent members and discussed. In general, the paucity of research on agriculture in Communist countries at a time when the demand for in-depth research is, perhaps, even more critical was underscored. Mr. Ellis commented on the changing concept relating to U.S. food aid for developing countries. President Johnson's proposed Food for Freedom program calls for abandoning the present Food for Peace concept under which the amount of food available for distribution abroad is determined by the size of the farm surpluses. Instead, U.S. farm production goals would be based on meeting a share of the food needs of developing countries that

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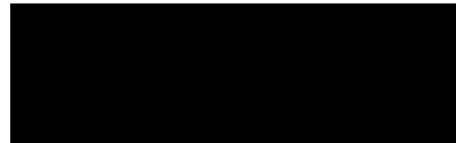
are determined to help themselves as well as on normal U.S. domestic requirements, plus prudent reserves. The recent failures of the Communist countries to meet their own needs for food have been the principal factor in the sharp reduction of grain stocks in surplus-producing countries. If these failures persist there could be serious repercussions resulting from the abnormal strains placed on surplus-producing countries to supply a large part of the food deficit not only of developing nations of the Free World but also of Communist countries. Thus the ability or inability of the Communist countries to supply their own food requirements in the future will have not only a direct effect on their own populations but also an indirect effect on the world supplies of food that will be available for combatting malnutrition in the developing nations. In view of these and related problems the subcommittee unanimously recommended that serious consideration be given to the allocation of more government resources -- which have been declining -- to the study of Communist agriculture in order to more accurately project food deficits and surpluses for the Communist areas.

3. In order to better apprise the members of the subcommittee on the related work currently being done or scheduled to be undertaken by the constituent organizations, the subcommittee unanimously recommended that, subject to approval by the agencies or departments concerned, a list of such projects be prepared by each organization and mutually exchanged on a weekly basis. These lists would include not only those projects that are entirely oriented toward agriculture but also those projects in which the agricultural economy, food problems, etc. are treated along with other subjects. The lists would include primarily projects that had just been completed in draft form but would also include the titles of research projects newly scheduled (such titles would appear when research began but would not again be included in the lists until a draft paper on the subject had been completed). Accompanying the substantively descriptive titles of the projects would be the name of the person primarily responsible for the project, and possibly his office phone number. Responsibility for preparing and disseminating these listings of projects is to be placed on the individual organizations. It was recommended that the listings include no projects with a security classification higher than SECRET. It is requested that members of the subcommittee forward the comments and recommendations of their respective departments and agencies in writing or by phone to [REDACTED] Code 143, extension 7107, by 1 April 1966.

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4. In view of the increasing importance of fish in world food consumption it was suggested that the subcommittee membership be expanded to include an expert on fisheries from the Department of Interior.



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Secretary  
EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture