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16 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Employee Activity Branch

SUBJECT : Study for Proposed Formation of
"Organization of Former Employees
of CIA"

1. This is forwarded in response for your request for immediate comment regarding the attached paper concerning the study for the proposed formation of "Organization of Former Employees of CIA". It is noted that the attached paper presents security questions in the following portions of the attachment:

- a. Page 1, paragraph 1, of memorandum to the Executive Director-Comptroller states that the attachment has been reviewed by the Office of Security, CI Staff and Central Cover but has not been staffed out by either since there has not been anything to staff out yet.

Comment: A quick reading of the proposal indicates that a formal response of the Office of Security ought to have a careful study of each part of the Security Office that might become involved in the support and maintenance of such an organization and costing out of all security support. As to the proposal itself, since the policy decision for advising and guiding as to Security principles in outside activities is primarily in the Employee Activity area, certainly a representative from EAB ought to be intimately involved

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in the proposal from this point forward if it is to receive further consideration. (As far as I know, this is the first reading of this in EAB).

- b. Page 2, Purpose of Study. This paragraph, in noting purpose is to present advantages and disadvantages, indicates it presents some of the security considerations. It is believed the proposal needs to be fully studied in depth in EAB and within the Security Office to make certain that no aspect of security is overlooked.
- c. Page 2. The paragraph entitled the "Scope of the Study" notes the following references to Security:
 - d) Are security considerations such as to make the formation of such an association undesirable?

Comment: Answer to this question is dependent upon what are the security considerations? These need to be defined on an item by item basis, and some of these will change as the proposal approaches final definition. For example, some of the considerations now present are:

1. Should overt employees only be a basic rule? To accept all the employees may mean the Agency may have to continue to provide professional security advice and protection for continued maintenance or solution of cover problems.
2. Employees in CIA are organized along compartmentation lines. Is this to be a similar arrangement in the organization?

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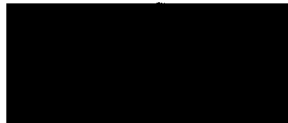
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If not, how does one prevent the problem of ex-employees taking the attitude, now it can all be told, and particularly when telling "only" a trusted ex-employee!

3. Is the association to have regular meetings and activities? If so, isn't security always going to be a factor to be reckoned with in all the association's activities?

4. Is the organization to be closely tied to Agency facilities, records and support? Will it not become known as a "company union" which the Agency might find difficult to keep house for or divorce when a policy clash occurred that splits its leadership and that of the Agency. If the element of control is not always present, how will security be maintained?

2. In short, the proposed organization would seem to present more of a security threat without an elaborate means to maintain it, and the threat may far outweigh the supposed benefits. Whether or not it will be desirable from an employee view and whether or not these security problems may be worked out, remains a question until all of the questions possible are asked and answered. In this regard, the Agency experience in this area that is recalled is with the "Veterans of OSS". This may provide some criteria, however, its activities as an organization were quite limited, and in the nature of the informal, attend if you wish, once a year celebration. If the association is to be similar, some of the noted considerations may not apply.



Deputy Chief
Employee Activity Branch

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