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Assistant Director, R & E

Chief, Global Survey Group

14 February 1949

CIA O-49

Reference: Memorandum for the Director from the Chief, ICAPS, 4 February 1949

1. The criticism presented in the Reference is so farfetched that it is hard to understand how it could be seriously made.
2. There is no denial of the position so stoutly maintained by ICAPS in paragraph 4 of the Reference, so far as it relates to analysis of the internal situation in the USSR. It is axiomatic. ICAPS is in remarkable error, however, in maintaining that analysis of the internal stability of the United States is a proper CIA function. That is not only outside of the intelligence function, but is also expressly forbidden by the statute from which CIA derives its existence. I cannot believe that ICAPS really meant to say what it has said in this connection, preferring to suppose merely that it has not expressed its thought well.
3. ICAPS, however, is apparently unwilling to adopt as reasonable an attitude toward ORE. It professes to believe an absurdity; that ORE really meant to say that the internal situation in the USSR was of no concern to CIA. This supposition depends on an exceedingly strained construction on half a sentence read out of context. It is incredible that ICAPS should really believe that ORE holds the view attributed to it, but only on that assumption can the ICAPS comment be regarded as having been made in good faith.
4. The sentence in question is defective in that the portion underscored by ICAPS is susceptible to the strained construction which ICAPS has put upon it. Such a construction, however, is not to be expected of any intelligent reader. It is contrary to the entire tenor of the discussion from which the quotation is lifted. Moreover, the true intent is made perfectly plain by the remainder of the very same sentence, which expressly states a view identical to that maintained by ICAPS: to wit, that the US has reason to give close attention to the possibility of tensions developing in the social structure of the USSR.
5. This is a teapot tempest unworthy of the Director's time and attention. Inasmuch as it has been raised, however, let the Director be shown how ICAPS has abused his confidence, and be assured that ORE is not so silly as ICAPS misrepresents it to be.

LUDWELL L. MONTAGUE

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Date 10 JAN 91