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NFIB-M-176
22 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD PRINCIPALS

FROM:

[Redacted]

Executive Secretary, NFIB

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SUBJECT:

Minutes of the 176th NFIB Meeting, 26 June 1985, 1400 Hours

Summary of Decisions

[Redacted]

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Minutes of the Meeting

[Redacted]

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CL BY: Signer
DECL: OADR
DRV FM: Multiple

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The DCI observed that he considered the estimate a fine piece of work, but he is determined that its dissemination be carefully controlled. Mr. Nall assured the DCI that all phases of the work and the proposed distribution of the estimate had been thoroughly coordinated with appropriate US officials.

Mr. Magruder, representing Navy Intelligence, asked whether DIA, which handles the dissemination of estimates for the Defense Department, would get the usual number of copies. It would be important for research, development, testing, and evaluation consumers in the Washington area to have access to the document for its operational implications. The Navy would, of course, handle dissemination in any way the DCI wishes, even if this means circulating but one copy around to the appropriate Navy readers. BGen Fletcher, representing DIA, reported that the number of copies supplied DIA would drop from 47 to less than a dozen.

Mr. Gates noted that limiting the distribution in this way is in implementation of the DCI's earlier instruction, followed up by a memorandum from Mr. Gates, to prune the distribution of particularly sensitive papers within the Intelligence Community and to hold the distribution to policymakers to a maximum of a couple of dozen. While the estimate had been reviewed by the appropriate persons [redacted] it may have been reviewed principally from a technical perspective, and perhaps not with a full appreciation for the sensitivity of putting all this information together in one document.

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The DCI stated that it is entirely appropriate for the Intelligence Community to prepare an estimate such as this in response to a request, in this case from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and he wishes it to be handled like the other very sensitive papers the Community produces. At the same time, he thinks that in this case the Secretary of Defense should have a voice in who gets it. He thus instructed General Fletcher to provide Mr. Nall with a list of the proposed dissemination of the paper within DoD, and the DCI would then consult on the entire distribution list with Secretary Weinberger.

Mr. Thorne stated that he had one additional matter to raise before leaving consideration of the estimate. The estimate is exceptionally well done, but it has a very special focus. Even more interesting and useful would be an estimate on the broader aspects of the development [redacted] its implications for arms control.

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The DCI reacted to Mr. Thorne's suggestion positively by agreeing that [redacted] including for the strategic balance. He reported that he has been encouraging the NIO for General Purpose Forces to consider the implications [redacted] vulnerability of the Soviet's conventional military weaponry and capabilities.

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Mr. Hill, representing the Under Secretary of the Air Force, seconded the DCI's views, adding that the Soviets are 10 to 15 years behind the US in developing similar technology because they lack adequate data processing capabilities. The DDCI, complimenting the quality of the estimate, took Mr. Hill's point, noting that it is a consequence of the Soviet's brute force approach to military problems.

The DCI thereupon approved the estimate.

3. Miscellanea

The DCI noted that additional international outrages continue to occur in the wake of the hijacking of the TWA airliner and the Lebanese Shiite's seizing a number of its passengers as hostages. He wishes to alert the principals that these matters are receiving daily attention at the White House; sentiment is growing that these multiple acts are not unconnected, that the Sandinista, North Koreans, Syrians, and Libyans may be consorting, and that the Soviets have been aware. Sentiment is also growing that the US will have to respond. The Intelligence organizations, the DCI continued, should bring current their assessments of the perpetrators' vulnerabilities and how all these acts fit together, and they should hold themselves ready to perform the tasking and targeting that may be required.

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General Fletcher noted the relationship of Mr. Boykin's concerns to the request recently considered by the Board from the Commander of the US Readiness Command. The General counselled that the answers Mr. Boykin seeks will be difficult to develop because of their very nature; they will not leap out. The DCI asked for a status report on our response to REDCOM and was assured that it is being developed as originally planned.

The DCI thereupon adjourned the meeting.



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Those Participating

- Mr. William J. Casey, Chairman
- Mr. John N. McMahon, Vice Chairman
- Mr. Robert M. Gates, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency
- Mr. C. Thomas Thorne, Acting for Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State
- Brigadier General Edward N. Fletcher, Army, Acting for Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
- Major General Thomas Flynn, Army, Acting for Director, National Security Agency
- Mr. Jimmie D. Hill, Acting for Under Secretary of the Air Force
- Mr. Douglas Mulholland, Special Assistant to the Secretary (National Security), Department of Treasury
- Mr. Charles V. Boykin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence, Department of Energy
- Mr. Phillip Parker, Acting for Assistant Director, Intelligence Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Mr. Clarke Magruder, Acting for Director of Naval Intelligence
- Brigadier General James Shufelt, Army, Acting for Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
- Colonel Charles G. Shankland, Air Force, Acting for Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
- Brigadier General Frank Breth, USMC, Director of Intelligence

Those Attending

- [Redacted], Acting Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council
- Mr. Julian Nall, National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology
- Miss Eloise R. Page, Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff
- [Redacted] OALA/DDI
- [Redacted] h, USAF, Analytic Group, National Intelligence Council
- [Redacted] National Intelligence Officer for Africa

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SUBJECT: Minutes of the 176th NFIB Meeting, 26 June 1985, 1400 Hours

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