

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "To" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "To" column. Each officer should initial (Check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

ADPC

NO.

DATE

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. Acting CEE		<i>8 Aug</i>	<i>8 Aug</i>		1 to 2: Please talk to me about this very promptly
2. <i>EE III</i>					
3. <i>WE-III</i>					
4.					<i>am dle</i>
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

File this in
summary to memo up

~~SECRET~~

EE #19

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

~~SECRET~~

8 August 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRECKINRIDGE

SUBJECT: Berlin Congress for Cultural Freedom; activities of
Melvin Lasky.

REFERENCE:

1. I continue to be very disturbed about the manner in which this entire matter has been conducted, including the non-observance of my original memorandum of 7 April 1950, in which I approved this project, subject to the condition that Lasky would not be permitted to figure publicly in this operation. The memorandum of and the conversations which I have had with have done very little to relieve my apprehension on the score that no effective action to exclude Lasky from continuing to play a blatantly conspicuous role either has or will be taken by us.

2. I submit that paragraph six of the reference memorandum, in both tone and content, is entirely unsatisfactory for the following reasons:

a. It fails to reveal any appropriate acknowledgment or comprehension of the damage which has resulted from Mr. Lasky's conduct. This was a major blunder/

and must be acknowledged by the responsible members of our staff both here and in Germany.

b. It betrays an unfortunate tendency, apparently more deeprooted than I had suspected, to succumb to the temptation of convenience (doing things the easy way) and irrespective of security and other technical considerations of the utmost importance.

3. I have stated orally and I want to make myself completely clear on this point that unless means can be found to sanitize this operation by the removal of Lasky, Burnham and other persons of known or traceable official significance from overt roles in the proposed continuing organization, then I am unwilling to have OPC

continue

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-2-

continue its backing. I repeat my request that this be delivered to the field as an instruction and that it be so regarded and acted upon within this headquarters. I do not wish to create the impression that I am in any way opposed to the continuation of the operation, provided it can be sanitized and handled with a greater degree of sophistication and technical expert-~~ease~~ than has characterized our performance up to date. However, I do not wish to be associated with any repetition of what we have seen thus far.

[Redacted Signature]

F.G.W.

FGW:lgw

P.S. Since dictating the foregoing, I have just learned from General Magruder that he showed our report on this Congress to Secretary Johnson, together with his own very complimentary appraisal of the operation. Secretary Johnson was so favorably impressed with this report and General Magruder's comment that he took the papers over and showed them to the President, who expressed himself as being very well pleased. I can only hope that the very rough edges which have recently appeared are not brought too sharply to the attention of these lofty officials. In any case this development underscores in red everything which I have said about the necessity for tidying up this operation and eliminating all of the "Irish pennants".

~~SECRET~~