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SECURITY INFORMATION

5 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
SUBJECT: Committee for a Free Asia

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
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AUTH: HR 7080
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1. Attached is an operating program, budget and set of administrative procedures for the Committee for a Free Asia.

2. This has been cleared within the Agency and with the P Area of State, which, over a period of time, has made various suggestions that have been incorporated into the final plan and has submitted a detailed memorandum of approval (attached) listing some final suggestions. Most of these have been incorporated. It has not been cleared with the Area Division of State, which has had the plan for a month and a half. I am told by Bob Joyce, however, that he expects this approval will be forthcoming. I feel it is important to get started and so I am sending it to you for approval. In doing so, you might make the proviso that any suggestions the area desk of State makes will be considered for incorporation.

3. Despite the specific clearance from State, in my meetings with Devine I have been told informally that this clearance should not be construed as limiting any decision to be made by the ad hoc joint CIA-State group which is considering our relations with the P Area. In these meetings Devine is taking the view, which he described as Barrett's view, that many of the things listed in the attached operating program, already approved by Barrett, can be done equally as well by the State Department. I have myself taken the view that since they are worth doing and the State Department considers them worth doing, there is no harm in blanketing the target area and that in so doing we furnish cover for other operations which the Committee can do and which cannot be done by State.

4. We hope that the Committee will serve two purposes: (1) an instrument of psychological warfare through means listed in the attached operating report; (2) a vehicle for covert operations. I am also attaching a brief memorandum from the Chief, FE, indicating the importance which he attaches to the latter function.

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5. I hope you will approve the operating program so that the staff of the Committee can get under way. If the joint ad hoc CIA-State group should decide as a matter of policy to make changes in the plan, or even to abolish the Committee altogether, it will have to come as a separate decision on a policy level. In view of the F Area's approval of the operating program as it now stands, that possibility should not be a limiting factor on your present decision.

WEN
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PY/CIO:] seh
Chief, International Organizations Branch

Orig - Addressee
1 cc - ADPC (for FE)
1 cc - PY/C]
1 cc - CIO
1 cc - PY
2 cc - SDRE ✓

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