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14 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Committee for a Free Asia

As agreed at the PRC meeting on 11 April, I am attaching a summary of the proposed operating plan and budget for CFA for fiscal 1953 with comments and recommendations. You said you wanted to speak to the Director about this, and I would appreciate it if you would let me have a final decision as soon as possible so that I may notify CFA and they can begin to get their budget in order.

[Chief]

International Organizations Division

Attachment

CIO: []/en

Orig - Addressee
2 cc - CIO
1 cc - IO/Eno
1 cc - []
1 cc - DD/CO
2 cc - RI

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SECRET

SUBJECT: Committee for a Free Asia

1. The Committee for a Free Asia has requested our reactions and our policy guidance with respect to a provisional operating plan and budget of some 23 millions for fiscal year 1953. CFA points out that this is a plan setting forth the maximum which they could accomplish under optimum conditions during this period. The CFA budget for fiscal year 1952 was about 2 million of which they will spend about 1 1/2 million. A provisional amount of)
() has been budgeted in the CIA budget for CFA for fiscal year 1953.

2. For purposes of comparison the National Committee for Free Europe will spend about 17 millions in fiscal year 1952; and has budgeted 15 millions provisionally for fiscal year 1953. NCFE spent about 8 millions in their second year of operations.

3. A breakdown of the CFA budget and the substance of the proposed operating program is as follows:

10.1 million for operating costs of which -

- a. 2.8 million is for radio operating costs.
- b. .8 million for salary and administration.
- c. 1.7 million for American operations.
- d. 1.7 million for Asian operations.
- e. 2.8 million for Editorial Department costs, most of which are for overseas activities.

12.6 million for capital radio expenses (7 transmitters: 3 in Thailand, 2 in Formosa, 2 in Philippines). CFA points out that these cannot be built in fiscal year 1953.

A. Radio - Immediate plans for 1953 call for two new radio operations in Japan and the Philippines broadcasting a minimum of one hour a day utilizing local radio stations,

either through the purchase of time or the grant of free time. They also propose to explore similar broadcasts in Burma, Thailand and Malaya if State owned stations there will permit.

They also propose broadcasts from Manila to the China mainland and to Southeast Asian countries in which it will not be possible to broadcast from existing stations within such countries. They propose a minimum of eight hours of such broadcasts per day in four Chinese dialects and in the language spoken in Burma, Malaya, Thailand, Indonesia and Indo-China.

They also propose some expansion of existing programs in San Francisco. It is not clear as to how much expansion or for what kind of programs.

As indicated above they also propose the construction of \$12,000,000 of transmitters for International operations which it is assumed will begin during fiscal year 1954.

* B. Domestic Operations - CFA proposes a program of assisting and influencing Asians, including students in the United States; sponsoring scholarships; Asian lecturers and so forth. About half the budget is for overseas aspects of this program.

C. Asian Operations - Principal costs are for salaries, travel, office expenses and so forth in setting up twelve overseas offices.

D. Editorial Department - CFA proposes to set up seven bookstores in four countries; publish or support sixteen magazines in eleven countries; publish eight student magazines similar to "My Weekly Reader" in each of eight countries; operate or support five newspapers; translate and publish twenty anti-Communist books; publish and distribute anti-Communist comic books; send reporters or editorial specialists to foreign posts; publish and stock-pile newsprint; furnish printing equipment to four countries to provide facilities and indigenous anti-Communist programs.

E. Administrative Expenses - These include salaries, travel, rent, legal services, telephones, and related administrative expenses for the San Francisco office.

4. The plans for expansion of Radio Free Asia for which about 15 1/2 million have been proposed require considerable further study

** Many of these programs were proposed by the Department of State*

before a sound judgement can be reached. A complete study of existing stations and networks which might be utilized by CFA should be made before major capital costs for construction of new transmitters are authorized.

5. Some of the programs and funds proposed by the American Operations Department and the Editorial Department should be eliminated.

6. Additional efforts should be directed at the type of activities outlined in Attachment A.

7. Personnel and other costs proposed for the home office in San Francisco appear high.

Recommendations: It is recommended that CFA:

A. Develop for review here early in May an operating plan and supporting budget of between 5 and 9 million setting forth in as much detail as possible programs directed at each Asian country or group within a country (this should include Asians within the United States.)

B. Develop such plan to include only the radio operations which may be handled without major additional capital costs.

C. Reduce the proposed costs of the American Operations and Editorial Department.

D. Direct additional effort and funds toward the support of the activities of the type outlined in Attachment A.

E. Reduce the home office costs as far as possible and decentralize operations from San Francisco into Asia as far as possible.

F. Present as further detailed studies a complete plan and supporting cost data for broadcasting to radio audiences which cannot be feasibly reached from existing stations. These studies should include operating as well as capital costs. Funds for such studies should be included in the budget to be reviewed here early in May.

G. I believe we should agree that if CFA later presents additional radio or other projects for which funds are not included in the above budget, and after review here we believe them to be sound, funds therefor should be approved by us if such funds are available.

CIO [] / EUE:blj

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ALLEN W. DILLES