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22 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Messrs. Strong and MacKnight of the  
Department of State

1. The undersigned and [ ] of this office met with Mr. Strong and Mr. MacKnight this afternoon to discuss problems connected with DTPILLAR. The first of these was a suggestion of DTPILLAR that its liaison meetings with the station representatives be held in the local U.S. embassies in order to avoid the security problems of outside meetings. It was suggested that these meetings could usefully include a representative of the Embassy in order that the Embassy could be apprised, at the same time as the station, of DTPILLAR activities, coordination between USIS and DTPILLAR activities could be effected, and Embassy advice on political matters elicited. Mr. Strong and Mr. MacKnight stated that this should be easily arranged since there are now cleared State representatives in almost every area, and the meetings should be profitable to all sides.

2. DTPILLAR'S request for access to the Embassy biographic files was also discussed. It was agreed that, since these files are confidential, DTPILLAR should not attempt to gain access overtly through an uncleared Embassy official, but should ask the station man under Embassy cover to supply the information from the files.

3. [ ] then sought the advice of the State representative on DTPILLAR policy toward the overseas Chinese and toward Formosa. He stated that it was tentatively our feeling that DTPILLAR should not attempt to propagandize the overseas Chinese to support Formosa and that our policy toward the overseas Chinese should have two aspects: (a) seeing that overseas Chinese youth are educated in democratic concepts by providing alternatives to Mainland education and that their sentiment is attached to the host countries of Southeast Asia through racial-integration programs and (b) seeing that the elders (largely the businessmen) of the Chinese community do not support the Mainland regime. It was noted that any DTPILLAR program in active support of Formosa among the overseas Chinese ran the risk of alienating other Southeast Asian countries. Mr. Strong stated that the outstanding policy document on this subject states that U.S. policy is to integrate overseas Chinese with the host countries. The draft NSC paper on

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Formosa, however, he indicated is less clear on this point. He stated that U. S. policy specifically does not preclude use of third force groups to obtain U. S. objectives. He and Mr. MacKnight agreed that DTPILLAR was not bound to follow every turn of U. S. policy and that active support of Formosa was not required (although obviously DTPILLAR could not and would not take an opposing stand.)

4. [ ] stated that we felt that DTPILLAR'S activities on Formosa would most profitably center around an effort to produce new and creative thinking on the forms which democratic government in a free China, and perhaps in the rest of Asia, might take. He stated that DTPILLAR is presently supporting a professor of Constitutional Law on Formosa who is reported to have had good effect in stimulating new thinking among his students and the intellectuals of Formosa on fundamental governmental theory. The State representatives agreed that Formosa has the talent for a program of creative thinking and writing in this field and that this would have a more beneficial effect in Asia than the present low-level propagandism emanating from Formosa. It was agreed by all that the latter was well-covered, and that DTPILLAR might well concentrate its Formosa program on the former.

5. The question of DTPILLAR'S activities in Japan was also raised. [ ] inquired whether State agreed that DTPILLAR should concentrate on center groups and non-Communist leftists in carrying out its program. Mr. MacKnight stated that he looked upon DTPILLAR as a ten-year program and that DTPILLAR must provide a bridge to the groups which could not be reached by supporting organizations already committed to our side. The problem, Mr. Brown noted, was to give DTPILLAR confidence that it would not get in trouble by dealing with groups which might, for example, be against rearmament but were definitely not under Communist control. Mr. MacKnight stated that if DTPILLAR could not work with groups which were not tied to U. S. policy, he saw no reason for DTPILLAR'S existence. Both he and Mr. Strong felt that DTPILLAR should indeed concentrate on winning over the less friendly groups and should not be afraid of diverging from overt U.S. policy in so doing, provided they did not run absolutely counter to long-range policy.

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