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INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Minutes of Meeting of
Project Review Committee
Central Intelligence Agency

held in Rm. 2169A
New War Department Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
at 1430, 11 December 1946.

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I. Members Present:

Colonel E. K. Wright, Executive to Director, CIG, Chairman.
Colonel John A. Dabney, Asst. Executive Director, CIG.
Brig. General E. L. Sibert, Asst. Director, Office of Operations, CIG.
[REDACTED] Asst. Chief, Finance Division, CIG.
Lieut. Colonel E. N. Huston, Chief, Advisory Council, CIG (Secretary).

Others Present:

Mr. Shepard, FBIS, CIG.
[REDACTED] FBIS, CIG.
[REDACTED] IOAPS, CIG.
Capt. Rufus L. Taylor, Advisory Council, CIG.

II. Project Under Consideration: Project OO-2, Move of FBIS Monitoring Station from Portland, Oregon to Rededa, California.

III. Scope of Project.

FBIS desires to move its present foreign broadcast monitoring station in Portland, Oregon to Rededa, San Fernando Valley, California. This monitoring station is designed to intercept primarily shortwave broadcasts from Latin America, Russia, China, India and other countries in the Far East. The proposed move is necessary for the following reasons: (a) FBIS is occupying property of the Federal Communications Commission which the Commission would like to obtain for its own uses as soon as possible; (b) for FBIS purposes, more favorable reception can be obtained farther south on the West Coast; (c) a site with buildings especially designed for radio reception has been located at Rededa which radio tests indicate is far superior to the present Portland site; and (d) it will be possible to consolidate the entire operation under one roof and obtain optimum physical efficiency.

IV. References:

- (1) Memo. to Projects Review Committee, subject: "Move FBIS Monitoring Station from Portland, Oregon to Rededa, California (undated) from Asst. Director for Operations.

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- (2) Office Memo., same subject, dated 9 Dec 1946, from Acting Chief, ICAPS.
- (3) Office Memo., same subject, dated 11 Dec 1946 from Asst. Chief, Finance Division.

V. Discussion.

Committee reviewed the above references.

The site desired by FBIS at Reseda, California for location of a monitoring station is about 25 miles NW of the downtown section of Los Angeles and 1 1/2 miles W of the city of Burbank. It comprises 143.32 acres, exclusive of streets. It contains a radio station (main building), garage and utility building, guard tower, incinerator, barn and cabin.

In reply to questions raised by the Chairman, Mr. Shepherd stated that the Chief Engineer at Portland had spent approximately six (6) weeks at the contemplated site at Reseda and in general all surveys indicated its desirability from the technical standpoint. He explained the present site at Portland belongs to FCC and is not large enough for both FCC and FBIS. Furthermore, FBIS agreed in the beginning to vacate this property at such time as FCC desired.

With regard to housing of personnel, Mr. Shepherd advised that conditions at Portland and also at the contemplated Reseda site were such that housing presented an acute problem. At the Reseda site he explained that temporary facilities will be available and he did not anticipate any too great difficulty of personnel finding a place to live.

Colonel Wright brought up the question of the lease. Mr. Shepherd stated that the Army Engineers had surveyed the site and had recommended the price and lease conditions in the real estate plan which FBIS submitted.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that in view of the construction costs required at the new site, ^{Location} a lease of a transmitter on the 143 acres at Reseda would most likely interfere with FBIS operations.

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Mr. Shepherd advised the Committee that the \$40,000 for receivers, recorders and other equipment would be sufficient.

Colonel Wright asked about the availability of funds to cover estimated cost of \$229,700.

██████████ said that the money could be made available from W. D. funds to be allocated to CIG.

In reply to ██████████, Mr. Shepherd stated that approximately ██████████ had been appropriated to War Department for FBIS but operations had cost about ██████████. Therefore FBIS would be able to bring very little money of their own to CIG.

Mr. Shepherd stated that other FBIS moves were contemplated (1) from Cairo to Cyprus and (2) East Coast monitoring site from present location to new site as soon as one is found.

Colonel Wright suggested that the following factors be investigated before approval of this project could be recommended to the Director:

- (1) Cost of a lease taken on an annual basis with rights of renewal for not less than five (5) years.
- (2) Housing situation.
- (3) Effect that industry in the locality may have upon the value of the land. What plans for industrial expansion in the area may affect the property in question.
- (4) All steps necessary to protect CIG financially.

After considerable discussion it was generally agreed that CIG should not lease the land for less than one (1) year with full assurance of renewal rights for as long as desired and for not less than five (5) years.

██████████ added that in negotiations for the lease, provision should be made for the Government to retain title to property and improvements made at expiration in order to obtain full salvage value.

Colonel Wright and Commander Taylor advised the Committee of the necessity of determining industrial intentions in the area since high-voltage power equipment of certain industries, hospitals, etc., might cause serious interference to radio reception.

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General discussion followed relative to other probable locations in California that might have more all-around suitability for FBIS operations. Some of the Army and Naval installations being abandoned might be suitable and obtainable at no cost from War Assets Administration. Mr. Shepherd agreed to explore these possibilities with G-4, WDCS; Naval Communications Division; and War Assets Administration.

General Sibert stated that OSS had spent \$45,000 at Reseda and that the building and general location there was especially adapted for good radio reception. A site at Ventura, California had been considered but there were no buildings which would mean considerable cost initially.

Colonel Wright stated that the Director had indicated his general approval to FBIS project but desired that additional possibilities be investigated. He stated that the FBIS operation is a "going concern" and should be continued. However, approval of the move should not be recommended to the Director at this time.

General Sibert stated that the Office of Operations was only asking for approval in principle and authority to make a reconnaissance of the area. FBIS desired to send [redacted] and P&A have named Mr. Kelley for this assignment.

VI. Action Taken.

a. The Committee agreed to withhold recommendations to the Director on Project OO-2 pending receipt of a full report on all of the factors involved; including:

- (1) A reconnaissance of the Reseda area to determine
 - (a) Housing conditions.
 - (b) Intentions of industrial enterprises and other installations which may affect the value of the property and the general suitability for efficient FBIS operations.
 - (c) The best possible lease arrangements which will guarantee full legal and financial protection to the Government.
 - (d) General real estate conditions in the area as they affect acquisition of this property by OSS.

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(e) Suitable location for installing a radio transmitter for future use of CIG.

(2) Investigation of other suitable sites which may be obtained in the area, particularly those installations which have been either abandoned by the Army and Navy and turned over to the War Assets Administration for disposition or have been retained and suitable space may be made available to CIG at nominal or minimum cost.

b. One (1) representative from Office of Personnel and Administration and one (1) from FBIS be selected to conduct the reconnaissance and investigation outlined in VI, g above as soon as possible.

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