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13 February 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Subject: Reciprocal Agreement with the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service

During the war, the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service (now a branch of the Central Intelligence Group) had an informal reciprocal agreement with the Monitoring Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation whereby foreign broadcasts intercepted by the two countries would be freely interchanged. The purpose of the agreement was to effect economies by dividing the job of world-wide monitoring and eliminating unnecessary duplication. The British Broadcasting Corporation is providing us with the product of its European monitoring; in return, we are giving them a relatively small file of Middle Eastern broadcast material which is intercepted by our Foreign Broadcast Information Branch at Cairo.

We understand that the British are interested in equalizing the reciprocal agreement by having the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch also provide them with monitored material from the Far East and Latin America in return for the extensive European service it is providing this Government. The future of our listening post in Cairo is questionable. Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus present possible alternates. We desire to enter into a working arrangement whereby we would make available to the British, in London, our product of Far Eastern, Latin American and Middle Eastern monitoring in return for the continuation of the present British Broadcasting Corporation European coverage plus their aid in effecting a transfer from Cairo to a suitable Middle East location, preferably Cyprus.

It is proposed that we confer with the State Department to discuss the proper procedure to follow in negotiating such an agreement with the British. Mr. Russell M. Shepherd, Chief, Foreign Broadcast Information Branch, will represent the Central Intelligence Group on this matter. It would be appreciated if your designated representative would call Mr. Shepherd on Executive 615, extension 2927, to arrange a meeting for a discussion of further details pertaining to the desired reciprocity.

HOYT S. VANDENBERG
Lieutenant General, USA
Director of Central Intelligence

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APPROVED FOR
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