

Senior Staff Officers' Course

Chief of Staff

Mr. Friedman
Special Assistant

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1. On 19 November 1954 I suggested that some very useful and constructive thinking might be gained for NSA if time were provided at the end of the Senior Staff Officers' Course for the students to write original and fairly extensive papers (under conditions of privacy and academic freedom) relative to the mission of NSA. This suggestion was sent (Incl. 1) to DD/PROD, DD/COMSEC, DD/R&D, and TNG for comments (Incls. 2-5).

2. In general, the comments indicate agreement with the suggestion. However, DD/COMSEC seems to feel (Incl. 5) that selected subjects on specific problems should be assigned these officers. If an officer were at a loss to think of a pertinent subject that he himself would be interested in writing about, such specific guidance would surely be useful. Perhaps it would be best (and certainly it would be more encouraging of independent thought) for these officers to select their own subjects independently and then submit them for approval prior to the time allotted for their research and writing. In this manner, an element of control would be introduced without unnecessarily limiting the academic freedom.

3. The authority to whom such subjects would be submitted for approval and to whom such papers would be submitted for review is unclear. I believe it might appropriately be placed on the new Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations. I think TNG should provide working space, materials, and assistance as needed.

4. This matter is referred to you for your comments and/or approval.

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Incls: 5
a/s