

~~TOP SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~

TENTATIVE

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 13.5/44      Item 2 of the Agenda for the Eleventh Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 26 February 1954.

Subject:              Distribution of COMINT Documents (USCIB 13.5/33, 13.5/39).

THE CHAIRMAN stated that this item is based upon a report prepared by the Executive Secretary, and that the report is being considered at the request of the Navy Member. He outlined the recommendations of the report and invited comments by Captain McCormick.

CAPTAIN McCORMICK said that consideration of the report at this meeting is requested in the hope that the Executive Secretary will elaborate upon his recommendations and express further his views as to what action should be taken concerning them.

THE CHAIRMAN reiterated his recommendation that an ad hoc committee be appointed to study the problem, adding that his view of what action should ultimately be taken might be considered drastic in that he would expect that an ad hoc committee making a logical approach to the problem might well agree that a procedure patterned after the CONSIDO concept would be the obvious solution to the problem. He went on to say that he had deliberately refrained from putting this matter on the agenda of either USCIB or USCIBEC, believing that such action would be taken by any Member who was seriously concerned, and interested in having the matter studied.

The ensuing discussion of the Chairman's proposal was lengthy and detailed, and indicated varying degrees of interest on the part of the Members. Some could not agree that the time and effort required to make an extensive study would be repaid in increased security. Those who believed that such a study would be worthwhile had different opinions as to what the extent or scope of the study should be, i.e., whether the world-wide distribution problem should be looked into or whether investigation should be restricted to external distribution in the Washington area.

On the question as to whether a study should be based on all aspects of distribution (internal and external) there was reluctance on the part of most members to go into the internal aspects, particularly at this time.

CAPTAIN AGNEW stated that he was prepared to accept, for his Director, the assignment of responsibility for preparation of data on NSA dissemination.

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MR. KELLOGG expressed his opinion that independent action on the part of individual member organizations to supply dissemination information to the Executive Secretary will be preferable to having such information collected by an ad hoc committee.

MR. POLYZOIDES said that such will be a superficial approach to the problem. He proposed that the initial step be a cataloguing of NSA dissemination, followed by a determination of whether the matter should be looked into further, and, if so, whether an ad hoc or a standing committee will be the proper instrument.

THE CHAIRMAN advised against referring the problem to a standing committee, primarily because of their existing work loads.

MAJOR CULMER stated that under normal circumstances the matter cannot be considered by the Security Committee for approximately six months.

MR. KEAY expressed his view that there are too many papers in circulation, and said that he was prepared to accept the Chairman's recommendations as they stand.

Further discussion resulted in a general agreement that, instead of recommending that USCIB appoint an ad hoc committee, the Security Committee should study the problem to define it more specifically. Toward this end, and to assist the Security Committee, it was agreed that the following actions would be taken:

a. That each USCIB Member other than the Director, NSA be requested to furnish to the USCIB Security Committee a statement of the nature and extent of all external COMINT distribution made by his department or agency in the Washington area.

b. That the Director, NSA be requested to furnish to the USCIB Security Committee a statement of the nature and extent of all COMINT distribution made by his National Center in Washington to other member departments and agencies of USCIB.

c. That the USCIB Security Committee be directed to study the data acquired in this fashion and submit to the Executive Committee a report of the situation in the Washington area together with such recommendations as it may deem appropriate in the premises.

It was further agreed that the Executive Committee would consider whether and to what extent, if any, the scope of this investigation should be expanded after receipt of the SECCOM study.

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DECISION: (26 February 1954) USCIBEC considered the problem raised in USCIB 13.5/33 and 13.5/39 and agreed upon the course of action outlined above.

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Due to the lateness of the hour the Chairman proposed that the remaining items on the agenda be considered at a subsequent meeting. He suggested Thursday, 4 March 1954, as a possible meeting date.

The Members agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 1625.

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