

28 March 1952 at 0935

Meeting of Executive Group for SCAG with some members of SCAG

Subject: SCAG's Report to General Canine

Those present:

Mr. W. F. Friedman, Chairman  
Adm. J. N. Wenger  
Mr. E. Speakman  
Mr. D. Post  
Dr. H. T. Engstrom  
Dr. A. Sinkov  
Dr. S. Kullback  
Dr. H. P. Robertson  
Dr. H. Campaigne  
Capt. J. S. Harper

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by stating that its purpose was to try to clarify, for the benefit of AFSA personnel, certain portions of the subject Report.

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605  
EO 3.3(h)(2)

2. He began by asking if the statement in subparagraph (1), under General Conclusions, viz., that there was a [redacted]

[redacted] was not too strong. There was an extended discussion in which it appeared that this statement had been carefully thought out by SCAG. Mr. Friedman was still afraid that the statement would be misunderstood, or might lead to future embarrassment of AFSA; he proposed an alternative statement, which after some minor changes was agreed to by all present as reflecting the true situation. This statement reads:

"There is sufficient promise of successful solution of the ALBATROSS problem to warrant continuation and considerable expansion of the present effort on it."

3. In connection with the SCAG recommendation that more computing time be found for the matrix projection method of solution, the Chairman asked Dr. Campaigne if AFSA is investigating the possibility of finding

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time on other machines, such as SEAC, ORDVAC. Dr. Campaigne answered in the affirmative.

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
 PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

4. When asked what was meant by an "expanded machine program," Dr. Engstrom replied, "more work on [redacted]

[redacted]

5. There was extended discussion about what SCAG had in mind in regard to a "Senior Civilian Technical Director reporting directly to the Director." Dr. Robertson said he had been shocked to find that there were no super-grade civilian jobs in AFSA, and stated definitely that there should be some. He stated that most research activities that he knew of, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, the Naval Ordnance Testing Station (at Inyokern), and at industrial laboratories too, there is a career man as technical director as well as a director. The ultimate responsibility must be on only one man, in AFSA's case military.

6. Mr. Friedman asked what SCAG had in mind by a "revision of personnel policy." Dr. Robertson stated that as an example of what was in mind, some question had arisen as to whether the reservists were being used in a technical capacity for which they were qualified, or for other duties.

[It was brought out that the case which had come to the attention of a SCAG member involved that of a reservist who, on one quite exceptional and urgent circumstance, was asked to deliver a classified paper.] Dr. Engstrom added that he thought the Agency had been losing too many competent people;

[Admiral Wenger pointed out that AFSA's attrition rate was lower than the average in Washington.] Mr. Friedman mentioned that contracts might be used

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to employ a small number of exceptional people; the SCAG members were unanimous that this would be bad for morale. Dr. Robertson said that separating basic research completely from operations, even within the Agency, would make the research work more attractive to scientists. By research he meant long-range cryptanalytic, ionospheric, and all types of broad investigations.

7. Mr. Friedman asked about the recommendation for "more use of outside contractors." It appeared that it was meant that more control should be delegated to the contractor. Reports from several contractors were that they had not been able to furnish solutions satisfactory to them because they had neither the authority nor the information necessary to do so. Mr. Post questioned whether the clearance standards are proper, and whether there was a tendency on AFSA's part to keep tight control beyond the need dictated by security. Dr. Kullback denied that excessive control was sought by AFSA. Dr. Robertson stated that others think that control is too tight, and Dr. Engstrom stated that in ERA's experience they were not given sufficient latitude and quoted John Howard as saying Burroughs felt the same way. The consensus of the SCAG members was that more information was needed by the contractors; AFSA should ask SCAG for comment in greater detail on this point.

*I don't recall this statement!*

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8. Dr. Sinkov pointed out that the answer to question 3 near the bottom of page 2 of the Report is yes, and all agreed that ~~was~~ what they had meant was no. [It developed that question had originally been "(3) Is maximum use being made of resources outside of AFSA which might be

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brought to bear on the problem?" Dr. Kullback stated that the security requirements for AFSA are much higher than for the AEC. Mr. Speakman pointed out that it is necessary to take risks to make progress. Mr. Post repeated that AFSA's security policies need re-examination. Mr. Speakman suggested asking the opinion of contractors about this security question.

9. Dr. Engstrom stated in regard to the future of SCAG that SCAG was waiting for a call from the Director. Mr. Friedman stated that General Canine intended to have an advisory group such as SCAG as a permanent body. Dr. Robertson asked if he (Dr. Robertson) represented CIA, and it was stated that there are no SCAG members who are representatives of organizations; each member speaks for himself. Dr. Robertson pointed out that the draft of the "Mission" lists him as representing the Central Intelligence Agency. It was decided that SCAG needs a charter formalizing membership, which should be drawn up by SCAG and AFSA together. Dr. Robertson volunteered to provide copies of the charters of other advisory groups known to him to have such charters.

10. Mr. Friedman stated that AFSA will expand its effort on ALBATROSS. It can get all the funds it needs for this and get more space, but how can it get more high-level personnel, particularly engineers? Dr. Engstrom asked if we could get ROTC graduates. Mr. Post asked, "Can you tell them what they will do before hiring them?" Dr. Engstrom suggested that recruiting would be simpler if AFSA had an unclassified arm which could hire people and use them without clearance, and from which the better

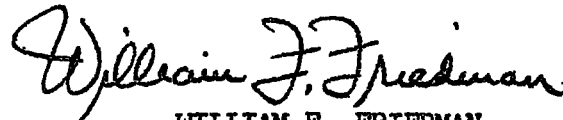
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ones could be transferred to the rest of the Agency. Mr. Speakman suggested that perhaps another agency could carry them for AFSA, as the Naval Research Laboratory once did.

11. With an iteration of the need for a charter for SCAG, the meeting adjourned. [ Upon receipt of the sample charters promised by Dr. Robertson, the drafting of a SCAG charter will be initiated. ]



WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
Chairman

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