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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

197

Eighth Meeting  
December 3, 1946  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

DEC 19 1946

Minutes

Present: Messrs. Eddy, SA-E (Chairman)  
Braden, A-Br  
Russell, A-R  
Hickerson, (for A-D)  
Evans, OCL (Executive Secretary)

1. Army Request for Liaison Officers in Singapore and Pretoria

The Chairman recalled to the Committee that in August the Secretary's Staff Committee had not granted the request of the Army and Navy Intelligence Services to attach Military and Naval Observers to Consular Posts abroad, but had recommended instead exploring the possibility of attaching Military Intelligence Observers to embassies or legations in the area. These observers might travel and sojourn in neighboring territories in order to cover them for intelligence purposes. He reported that the Army now was requesting the appointment of a liaison officer in Singapore, who would work out of the Military Attache's office in the London Embassy, and one in Pretoria whose area of activity would be extended to include all of Africa, south of Egypt and French North Africa.

Mr. Hickerson pointed out the difficulty with the proposal for Singapore because the reciprocal appointment of foreign military attaches to stations in U.S. territory outside of Washington is not permitted by our Government. He also felt strongly that the observer in Singapore should not have diplomatic status.

The Chairman indicated that this was a question of a liaison officer without reference to diplomatic status. Mr. Braden recalled numerous difficulties which he had experienced in Latin America when, during the war, military observers were sent out from embassies to smaller places. The Chairman pointed out that these difficulties were greater in Latin America, which is composed of sovereign states, whereas the present Army proposal related to a dependent area where there are still present elements of the armed forces of a protecting power.

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Mr. Hickerson said he had no objection to a liaison officer being posted to Singapore. The Chairman suggested that perhaps it would be better for such an officer to be attached to the military command there; certainly he felt that it would be impossible to reopen the proposal to attach him to a Consulate. The Chairman further suggested that the officer might work out of Bangkok, the nearest diplomatic Mission.

Mr. Hickerson stated that he had anticipated that such roving observers would pay only short visits away from the Capital -- a matter of a few weeks at a time. He saw complications in that in some places there were already too many persons -- in others too few -- and there would always be the problem of the division of functions.

## 2. CIG Briefing of Chiefs of Missions

The Chairman reported that CIG had requested a regular procedure for members of CIG to brief chiefs of Missions before they left Washington for the field. In some few cases, CIG had already made individual arrangements for such briefings. He reported that, after consultation within the Department, he had replied in a Top Secret letter, suggesting that such contacts would endanger the cover of CIG operations, but that individual contacts could be arranged for the Director of CIG by the Department; the letter further stated that briefing information concerning CIG would be conveyed to chiefs of Missions by the Department. He now had information that CIG was preparing a new request which would shift the emphasis from briefing of outgoing chiefs of Missions to interrogation of incoming chiefs of Missions. He felt that this would be a serious tax on the time of busy Ambassadors, and that from many points of view such regular procedure would be inappropriate.

Mr. Graden remarked that interrogation of chiefs of Missions should be done by the Department's own intelligence officers and CIG should participate only if there were special occasion. Mr. Hickerson felt that there should certainly be no briefing; there might be circumstances concerning any individual which would make a contact with CIG particularly desirable, but the decision in each case should be made by SA-1 in consultation with the appropriate geographical office. In any case, the appropriate desk officer of the Department should be present at such interviews.

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It was AGREED that contacts between CIG and Chiefs of Missions should be arranged only in view of special circumstances and should be agreed between SA-E and the geographical offices; some appropriate member of the Department, usually the desk officer concerned, should always be present at any meetings thus arranged.

3. CIG Proposals for Allocation of Collecting Functions

The Chairman stated that CIG had issued the draft of a proposed directive allocating amongst the intelligence agencies their field collecting functions. There had been prepared within SA-E, in consultation with the Subcommittee comprising Colonel Fearing, Mr. Briggs, and Mr. Lyons, a revision of the CIG proposal and a copy of this revision was available for each member of the Committee. The revision showed, by underlining, those phrases which were added to the original CIG proposal and, by light cancellation, those which it was desired to omit.

It was AGREED that the members of the Committee would take the revised text away for study and that the Chairman would call a special meeting as soon as an agreed text had been arranged by CIG and the agencies concerned.

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