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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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December 22, 1947.

MEMORANDUM

To: A-P - Mr. Peurifoy

Subject: Conduct of FP concerning SA-E Overseas Program.

The 1948 Foreign Service Budget includes authorization of \$420,000 for 60 Research and Intelligence positions in the Foreign Service. There has developed within CFS, particularly in FP, serious resistance to the making of appointments under this authorization due, apparently, to the opinion held by FP that the program involves duplication of regular Foreign Service activities, in spite of the fact that no nominations are made without the concurrence of the appropriate Geographic Offices. As a result, the program has been very slow in getting under way, and there is consequently danger that the 1949 appropriation will suffer when it is considered by the Congress. The Bureau of the Budget, you may recall, approved the entire Research and Intelligence overseas program, as requested, for 1949.


As a climax to the difficulties of obtaining prompt action by FP in regard to Research and Intelligence appointments, Mr. Ackerson went before the Appointments and Assignments Board (AAB) on December 9th with the request that no further GIK actions be processed until he was able to resolve what he considered a problem of duplication. He cited as an example of this duplication a nomination which, in fact, had never been made by the research division concerned to this office, nor by this office to FP. In presenting his proposal to the AAB, Mr. Ackerson read to the Board a draft memorandum which was not included in the minutes, had never been seen by my office, by Mr. Ravndal, or, to my knowledge, by your office. Yet he succeeded in obtaining the agreement of the members of the AAB to suspend further action on the program.

The action of Mr. Ackerson is considered highly inappropriate since the Chief of a Personnel Division is not considered to be the authority as to the validity of a program which has been approved by the Department, by the Bureau of the Budget and by Congress, and

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because he brought the matter before an interdepartmental body without first resolving the problem with the appropriate offices in the Department, an elementary matter of administration.

On December 15th I expressed my opinion on this matter to Mr. Ravndal, who stated that he was not familiar with the matter but would investigate it. In the week since then I have had a telephone call from Mr. Ackerson, who expressed a certain amount of recognition of the effect of his action on the program, but stated that since the memorandum had been written he would send a copy of it to me at once. No copy has been received, nor has Mr. Ravndal communicated with me.

While this office is more than willing to discuss with the proper officers of the Department any problems which arise in connection with its programs, I feel that serious damage has been done to this new program by the arbitrary action of Mr. Ackerson and request that steps be taken to resume the processing of appointments while such discussions are taking place.


W. Park Armstrong, Jr.
Acting

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