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Suspense to
1 June 48
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SUSPENSE DATE		TYPE		FILE DESIGNATION	
SUBJECT					
Rotation Plan Committee Minutes of Meeting, 30 Oct 47					
TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO
AS-20	AS-10				
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DATE 8 Jan 48

TO	FROM	TO	FROM
(2) ✓ Chief, ASA (10)		Ch, Security Div (80)	
Executive O (11)		Tech Staff (81)	
✓ Co'r Joint Oper (12)		Ch, Materiel Br. . . . (82)	
(1) ✓ Deputy Chief, ASA (20)		Ch, Methods Br. . . . (83)	
Dir, Comm Res (14)		Ch, Protective Br (84)	
Ch, Pers Sec (21)		Ch, Maint Br (85)	
Ch, Org & Tng Sec (22)		Ch, Res & Dev Div (70)	
Ch, Plans & Oper (23)		Tech Staff (71)	
Ch, Materiel Sec (24)		Ch, Ch. Ciph & Cif Br (72)	
Ch, Fiscal Sec (25)		Ch, Int Equip Br (73)	
Adjutant, ASA (26)		Ch, Elec & Elec Br (74)	
Ch, Sec Cont Sec (27)		Ch, Lab Serv Br (75)	
Ch, Operations Div (90)		Ch, C'logic Br. . . . (76)	
Ch, Lab Br. . . . (91)		Ch, Pers & Tng Br (61)	
Ch, Machine Br. . . . (92)		Ch, Supply Br (62)	
Ch, Crypt Br (93)		Co, Arlington Hall. . . . (40)	
Ch, Int Cont Br (94)			
Ch, I & D Br. (95)			
Tech Staff (96)			

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Is it desired that the Committee now go ahead & bring in recommendations for specific exchanges, including division chiefs, for rotation purposes?

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15 Jan 48

Memo -

Conference with Col. Hayes today. Says he's sure the individual chiefs would benefit by rotation but not so sure agency would.

Wants this put in suspense for a while.

I suggested wait until results of new survey are completed.

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ROTATION PLAN COMMITTEE

7 January 1948

A meeting of the Rotation Plan Committee was held in Room 117 Headquarters at 1000 hours on 30 October 1947. The following were present:

- Mr. William F. Friedman, AS-14, Chairman
- Dr. S. Kullback, AS-70
- Dr. A. Sinkov, AS-80
- Mr. F. B. Rowlett, AS-90
- Mr. J. L. Sullivan, AS-61
- Capt. R. W. Stowbridge, AS-23
- 1st Lt. H. S. Buchanan, AS-21

Also present:

- Mr. Leo Rosen, AS-70
- Mr. Mark Rhoads, AS-14

The Chairman briefly reviewed the order setting up the Committee and the results of its two previous meetings. He recalled to the members that after the second meeting no further action was taken because uncertainties incident to budgetary problems and their effects upon our personnel levels and so on made it advisable to postpone action in regard to rotation of personnel. Recently Colonel Hayes inquired regarding the status of the Plan and indicated that he wanted the Committee to resume its deliberations. He desired that the Committee should make additional specific recommendations regarding rotation of personnel and indicated that the matter of rotating division chiefs should be explored.

In regard to the persons already rotated (Small, Douglas, and Ferner), Dr. Sinkov stated that he would like to keep Mr. Small for another six months. It was agreed that no further rotation of these personnel for at least six months would take place.

In answer to the question: should rotation be made for definite periods? Mr. Rowlett stated that he believed that it should depend on operational needs.

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A review of the lists of rotatable personnel previously prepared by the division chiefs was made. After considerable discussion the names of the following were suggested for possible rotation:

Mr. Dumey, P-6, Chief of AS-76, to be interchanged with Mr. Clark, P-6, Assistant Chief of Security Division

Mr. Gordon, P-5, Chief of Project Section, AS-76, to be interchanged with Mr. Austin, P-5, Chief of AS-83

It was agreed that the wishes of the individual in each case should be consulted prior to any transfer.

Due to the difficulty in selection of personnel for rotation when selection is based on individuals rather than on the jobs held by them, it was agreed that a broader program based on a study of comparable job descriptions rather than on individuals be studied. Mr. Rhoads was designated to make this study.

The rotation of Staff members with operating personnel was discussed. It was agreed that this was important because business relations between these two categories of personnel would be aided by a knowledge of each other's problems. At present, if there are conflicts in views, these are due mainly to the lack of appreciation of the other fellow's problems for in many cases, Staff members have had no recent operational experience (within the past two years) and they would, as time goes on, be at a serious disadvantage in making sound recommendations, or in holding down an overseas job with the ASA. Also, most operating personnel have had very little Staff experience. Because of the limitation on assignment of grades higher than P-4 to Staff, in accordance with a decision made by the Chief or Deputy Chief, ASA, it was felt that no good purpose would be served in rotating civilians from the operating divisions to the Staff, because it is personnel of grades higher than P-4 ordinarily who would accomplish the most good in this regard. It was deemed most important, however, that Staff members be rotated to operating divisions, in case they had no operating experience. In the future, it would be advisable to assign those who are to occupy staff positions for a minimum of a year in the operating divisions. The present short tour is totally inadequate to give a proper appreciation of the problems to be encountered. The case of the 32 AAF officers to be assigned to ASA was cited. These officers are to be assigned to the operating divisions and not to Staff. Hence they will probably be better experienced than equivalent ASA officers in their detailed knowledge of operations and will be better equipped for their own operations in the Air Force.

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Rotation of Division Chiefs. Mr. Friedman reviewed the advantages to be gained from such rotation. In addition to the points cited in the minutes of the previous meeting, he felt that rotation of division chiefs would provide a freshness in point of view and prevent the solidification of people in jobs for long periods of time. An organization should not be dependent on one man or a very limited number of men, and although it would be a hardship on the individual to switch, the Agency as a whole would benefit. Cases were cited of such rotation in high administrative positions in the Bell Telephone System and in other companies. Mr. Sullivan was requested to ascertain from the Personnel Division of the Department of the Army or elsewhere pertinent data in regard to any studies made along this line in the commercial field.

Mr. Rowlett objected to accepting as a valid generalization that the "new-point-of-view" idea is a good reason for rotating division chiefs. It does not always work out, and he does not believe in shifting for the sake of shifting. If vacancies occur, however, that is another matter. The application of "new broom" in practice often has repercussions and temporarily, at least, there is a possibility of creating inefficiencies.

Dr. Sinkov stated that he has been in his present position for a year and a half. It has been good experience because it has been new to him. He feels, however, that he is totally out of the picture in regard to cryptanalysis and the research laboratory fields. He would welcome the change for the stimulation that it would bring to him. His present position has become largely routinized.

Dr. Kullback had a neutral feeling in the matter. In his position as Chief of AS-70 he has dealings with problems of both AS-80 and AS-90. He would not object to rotation, were it so decided, although he is completely absorbed in and by his present assignment and is not anxious to rotate.

Asked for his opinion, Captain Stowbridge indicated his view that rotation of high-echelon personnel, including division chiefs, would be good for the Agency.

Lt. Buchanan, representing Lt. Colonel Libby stated that he was too new in his present assignment to venture any views on the matter.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he had no views on the matter except to see that anything done was in harmony with Civil Service regulations.

Mr. Rosen indicated that while he knew that rotation of high-echelon personnel was a policy followed in the Bell Laboratories and elsewhere, he was opposed to the idea of shifting people around just for the sake of a change to see what might happen.

Mr. Rhoads was of the opinion that rotation of high-echelon personnel, including Staff members and division chiefs, should be adopted as a general policy wherever or whenever practicable. He reiterated the fallacy of basing an organization on individuals rather than on sound organizational principles. Dr. Kullback, however, felt that even a sound theoretical organization without the proper individuals will not function, whereas the right individuals will make even a poorly organized (on paper) set-up function.

The meeting was then adjourned to await reports from Messrs. Rhoads and Sullivan.

William F. Friedman

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
Chairman

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