

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

~~DEFENSIVE~~ FINAL

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 9.2/32 Item 2 of the Agenda for the 24th Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 28 January 1955.

Subject: COMINT Capability to Provide Early Warning of CHICOM Attack on Formosa.

THE CHAIRMAN reviewed briefly recent developments, stating that while he was discussing the proposed memorandum for the Special Committee with the USCIB Chairman (who was reluctant to sign it without further study), a new aspect of the problem arose in a concurrent discussion between the USCIB Chairman and the OSD member of USCIB. This aspect, which changes materially the completion of the whole problem, he said, concerned Governmental agreement (State-Defense) to place on Formosa a Bomb Wing and some 400 supporting NSA personnel (the 327th CRC) without prior concurrence of [redacted]. It was the Chairman's opinion that this creates a new atmosphere in which USCIB might be able to reach unanimous agreement on a memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, rather than for the Special Committee. He suggested, further, that an ad hoc committee of representatives from State, CIA, and Defense prepare such a memorandum for USCIB approval.

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

MR. GODEL pointed out that such a memorandum should deal only with obtaining additional information and should avoid reference to base rights.

THE CHAIRMAN agreed, commenting that the basic need is for recommendations acceptable to all members which will permit an approach by Admiral Stump to Chiang as directed by the Secretary of Defense.

CAPTAIN AGNEW suggested that the records show that even if the NSA Unit being transferred to Formosa were now in operation it would not, in all probability, be able to provide the early warning information [redacted]

MR. GODEL said that the memorandum being considered would negate any objection on the basis that base rights are being prejudiced by an approach. He stated further his belief that there is much to be gained by foregoing plans to send a split report to the NSC, and asking the Secretary of Defense to arrange for an approach. [redacted]

MR. PACKARD, referring to the question of base rights, expressed his view that that problem could not help but be affected by the reported action to place U.S. personnel on Formosa.

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THE CHAIRMAN stated that it is not intended to imply that there will be no effect on base rights negotiations, but, rather, that the effect on such negotiations by an approach to [] is now considered in a completely different light.

MR. PACKARD agreed, stating that his Department will continue to negotiate for base rights under the original specifications. He said he would be interested to know whether the NSA estimate [] remains the same now that the NSA people will be on the scene. If such [] is still considered an urgent requirement, he said, his superiors' views on steps recommended by the minority of the Board remain unchanged.

THE CHAIRMAN stressed the importance of early action if an approach to Chiang is to be made, and based upon this, he suggested that a single set of recommendations calculated to be acceptable to all of the members of the Board be drafted without delay.

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MR. PACKARD, having stated his official position, said that he felt that reference to the Special Committee would be time-consuming and perhaps unnecessary. He also stated his opinion that an approach to [] on a [] basis might well be met with a request, or demand, for []. He stated, further, his belief that an approach may well result in a further delay of base rights negotiations.

On the subject of terms of reference for an ad hoc committee, MR. GODEL recommended that the Board tell the Secretary of Defense that, in its unanimous opinion, an approach through military channels to [] should be made in an effort to obtain greater general cooperation from him, with the understanding that the person making the approach is well aware of our specific interest in the [] field.

MR. PACKARD said that his Department would not veto such an approach, adding, however, that if any aspect of the approach concerned the withholding of goods or services his Department would have to have such conditions spelled out in detail for study in advance of any commitment by State to accede to such a recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN suggested that the ad hoc committee endeavor to come up with recommendations for a persuasive approach.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD commented upon the advantageous position we now enjoy in Formosan negotiations in view of the location there of the 18th Bomber Wing and the expected arrival of the 327th CRC. He said that he favored the recommendation made by Mr. Godel.

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After a brief further discussion, THE CHAIRMAN asked if all were agreed that recent events appear to obviate the necessity for a report to the Special Committee and that an ad hoc committee should proceed with the drafting of a letter to the Secretary of Defense asking that an approach through military channels to [redacted] be made, in an atmosphere of persuasion, in an effort to obtain all pertinent early warning intelligence specifically [redacted] believed to be available.

The members were in general agreement, whereupon it was agreed that the ad hoc committee should consist of representatives of the Departments of State and Defense, the CIA and the NSA. The representatives appointed from the above organizations were, respectively, Messrs. Packard, Patton, [redacted] and Buffham. It was agreed, further, that the ad hoc report would be forwarded directly to USCIB for consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN then asked for comments on the reports submitted by the State Department (USCIB 9.2/26) and the Central Intelligence Agency (USCIB 9.2/27).

The members discussed these reports briefly, ultimately agreeing to note their contents, with the understanding that the NSA, Army, and Air Force members would meet to agree upon an interpretation of the footnote contained in the report by the Department of State member.

DECISION: (28 January 1955) USCIBEC agreed:

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(1) That recent developments appear to obviate the need for a split report to the Special Committee and that unanimous approval of the Board should be sought for a proposal to have CINCPAC approach [redacted] in an atmosphere of persuasion, in the light of present circumstances [redacted]

(2) To appoint an ad hoc committee composed of representatives of the Departments of State (Mr. Packard) and Defense (Mr. Patton), the CIA [redacted] and NSA (Mr. Buffham) to draft a specific proposal to be sent directly to USCIB for approval, and, upon approval, to the Secretary of Defense from USCIB.

OGA

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