February 10, 1958

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
February 10th, 1958, 10:30 AM

Others present: Secretary Dulles, Mr. Allen Dulles, Dr. Killian, General Cutler, Secretary Quarles, General Sanford, General Erskine, Mr. Sheldon, Deputy Under Secretary Murphy, Mr. Lay, Dr. Baker, Dr. Bode, Dr. Selfridge, Dr. Gleason, General Goodpaster

Dr. Baker reviewed the report of his group on a special intelligence activity, and presented their recommendations for its improvement and strengthening. Mr. Allen Dulles then reported on an analysis of these recommendations that had been made within the intelligence community, and offered proposals as to Presidential action on each of the recommendations. The President indicated general acceptance of these proposals, subject to clarification and greater precision developed in the discussion.

Dr. Killian suggested that it might be well to keep Dr. Baker's panel in being as a standing panel to the Science Advisory Committee, reporting again within something like six months to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities. The President strongly agreed.

GeneralCutler then suggested referring the report to the interested agencies (Defense and CIA) for use as appropriate, consistent with the President's action in this meeting on the recommendations. He pointed out that there were a great many other recommendations running through the report, and also some very valuable questioning of phases of existing procedures. The President said this was all right, but what he was really interested in was to know that Defense and CIA were going to carry the recommendations out thoroughly and effectively.

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John R. Horton 10/8/7
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In the course of the discussion, the President stressed strongly his feeling that these highly specialized activities should be closely centralized, and referred to the undesirability of split responsibility, as evidenced in certain recent leaks on intelligence activities in which both CIA and elements of Defense participate.

A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA