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9 November 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL CANINE:

SUBJECT: Brownell Committee Report

1. I have reviewed the subject Report and find therein only one item which might warrant some attention and the initiation of action on your part. This has to do with the defunct CONSIDO idea.

2. The following is quoted from Appendix I, p.3, of the Report:

"The committee believes that the proposal [CONSIDO] has sufficient merit to justify a recommendation that it be carefully reviewed by the new COMINT organization with the purpose of arriving at a decision either to dispose of it finally or to implement it in whatever form seems best in the light of the experience of three years of operation that have intervened since it was first put forth."

3. In General Erskine's memo of 13 September 1954 for the Secretary of Defense there are two or three references to the matter of evaluation and dissemination of COMINT information, and in fact one of the recommendations is to the effect that OSD "improve procedures for the evaluation and distribution of COMINT information." General Erskine's memo states that the Brownell Committee "recommended that the Secretary of Defense be named executive agent of the government for COMINT production and dissemination;" and he adds that "This is an area of the COMINT operation where substantial savings in skilled manpower and effort of the services can be made and where COMINT security can be measurably strengthened." (My emphasis.)

4. These references in General Erskine's memo are such that I think it might be timely for another attempt to get the idea of centralized evaluation and dissemination across, if only for the sake of greater security of COMINT, let alone greater efficiency and improved end-product. Perhaps a paper to be presented by you to USCIB should be initiated on this subject, for the time seems propitious.

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN  
Special Assistant

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