SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 9.2/11 Item 5 of the Agenda for the 21st Meeting of USCIBEC, held on 22 October 1954.

Subject: COMINT Capability to Provide Early Warning of Chinese Communist Attack on Formosa and the Off-shore Islands Occupied by the Chinese Nationalists.

(Note: This item was considered to have a direct bearing upon, and was considered in connection with, the previous item on Formosan Base Rights - USCIB 29.13/3.)

THE CHAIRMAN explained that the report before the Committee was prepared by the Intelligence Committee in response to USCIBEC's 13 October request for immediate study of the problem. He asked if the members wished to have the report forwarded to USCIB as it is.

MR. PATTON proposed that the Committee commission the Chairman to prepare a covering memorandum for the report which will inform USCIB of the Committee's general reactions to the proposals it contains stating, for example, that the points raised in paragraphs A through J are principally under the cognizance of a single Board member, or, at least, are resolvable through the coordinated effort of two or three members. The memorandum, he said, should also convey the Committee members' belief that the study points up such things as

THE CHAIRMAN invited comments, whereupon MR. POLYZOIDES proposed that the Committee take a more time-consuming approach to the problem by developing a position on each of the recommendations presented by the Intelligence Committee.

It was agreed to follow this procedure.

(Note: Pertinent comments upon controversial recommendations are indicated below. A listing of specific recommendations for change in the INTCOM report are contained in the decision for this item.)

USCIB: 9.2/11
Recommendation C: Shipborne intercept.

MR. PATTON commented that success in getting by other means what we think would make the cost of shipborne intercept disproportionate. He added that a lack of success in other respects, however, might well make shipborne intercept a definite requirement.

It was agreed that until the Navy report on feasibility of a Navy operation is received, the practicability of this method is most difficult to assess.

Recommendation D: 

Discussion involved existing national policy on this type of effort. In that national policy is apparently not well-defined, or not known to the Committee, the recommendation was rephrased to take this indefinite factor into account.

The Committee felt the recommendation should be changed to take this point into account.

Recommendation I: Notification

It was noted that while INTCOM recommends notification Board-to-Board, such notification should take a general form, to be paralleled by a detailed exchange between the respective Directors of NSA

Upon completion of the consideration of each individual recommendation MR. PATTON informed the members that while voting for the agreements reached, he would like it understood that the OSD member of USCIB may come up with an alternate paper at the time this problem is considered by the Board.
The members noted this reservation, and it was understood that every Board member is, as always, free to present views contrary to those expressed at this meeting.

DECISION: (22 October 1954) USCIBEC agreed to recommend approval of the recommendations presented by the Intelligence Committee, as contained in the enclosure with USCIB 9.2/6, subject to the emendations set forth below:

a. Paragraph A: No change in recommendation.
b. Paragraph B: No change in recommendation.
c. Paragraph C: Recommendation should be amended by deletion of the phrase "to USCIBEC" in the fourth line thereof.
d. Paragraph D: Recommendation should be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

That, in view of the importance of establishing immediately intercept facilities on Formosa, the Department of State continue to exert all feasible pressure on the Chinese Nationalists to obtain their agreement for granting intercept base rights.

(Note: In this connection, see also USCIB 29.13/5.)

e. Paragraph E: No change in recommendation.
f. Paragraph F: Recommendation should be changed to read as follows:

That, in view of the importance of establishing immediately intercept facilities on Formosa, the Department of State continue to exert all feasible pressure on the Chinese Nationalists to obtain their agreement for granting intercept base rights.

(Note: In this connection, see also USCIB 29.13/5.)
g. Paragraph G: No change in recommendation.
h. Paragraph H: Recommendation with paragraph 3 should be changed to read as follows:

[Blank]

i. Paragraph I: No change in recommendation; however, it was agreed that the action of USCIB should be a broad statement paralleled by specific and detailed proposals from the Director, NSA, as formulated by him, to

[Blank]

j. Paragraph J: No change in recommendation.

This item to be dropped from the agenda.