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TENTATIVE~~SECRET - U.S. EYES ONLY~~SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 25./1 Item B (Not on Agenda) for the 114th Meeting of USCIB, held on 8 April 1955.

Subject: NSA Research and Development Program.

GENERAL CANINE, referring to charter provisions which require that he inform the Board of his intent to adopt a new policy, stated that he has an opportunity to get 10,000 sq. ft. of floor space at the NSA School on R Street which he is considering obtaining for use in work on unclassified R and D projects. He said that there is a tremendous amount of unclassified work to be done in the R and D field, and that he often has difficulty in obtaining qualified engineers when they realize that a complete security investigation is a prerequisite for the job. By being able to offer employment on unclassified work, without security clearance, he said that he believed it possible to increase his R and D effort. It is therefore his intention, he said, unless the Board violently objects, to approve the staff study which has been prepared for him on this subject and set the wheels in motion to try this experiment. He continued by saying that he is anxious to determine the feasibility of the project before moving to Fort Meade in that it would be more difficult to operate on a trial basis at the new location. He suggested that if the trial is successful it may be possible to make an arrangement with, for example, the University of Maryland at the time of the Agency move.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (General Cabell) recommended that the Board note that the Director, NSA intends to obtain certain isolated space in which he intends to conduct certain unclassified activities.

GENERAL CANINE asked if any of the members could foresee possible difficulties which he had not mentioned.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR asked two questions, the first pertaining to cover, i.e., whether the unclassified group would be associated with NSA or with some other activity such as, for example, OSD. His second question related to the association between the unclassified work and NSA's classified projects; he asked if there would be a chance that the unclassified group would be able to associate their work with classified projects of the Agency.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN commented that the Director, NSA is undoubtedly aware of these pitfalls, which come under his responsibility to implement this plan in such a way as to have it an unclassified activity.

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GENERAL CANINE stated that both points raised by Captain Taylor have been and are being discussed. With regard to the second point he said that it does not present too great a problem because NSA's interest in the electronic and nuclear physics fields is well known throughout the country. On the first point he said that it hasn't been decided yet whether the project could be unclassified if recognized as an NSA activity. He added that this aspect is being given further study and consideration.

DECISION: (8 April 1955) USCIB noted the intended action by the Director, NSA as outlined in the foregoing discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 1130.

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