

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

~~TENTATIVE~~
FINAL

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

SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 29.9/7 Item 4 of the Agenda for the 19th Meeting of USCIBEC,
held on 21 September 1954.

Subject:

(Note: This item was considered as the first order of business at the 19th Meeting.)

The CHAIRMAN requested that all members in entering into a discussion of this problem endeavor to approach it on the basis of attempting to determine just what solution will be best in the national interest. He added his hope that the Committee can reach a unanimous decision, which will avoid the necessity of a Board meeting on the subject.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD stated that he is not prepared to make a final decision today, indicating that General Lewis desires to give the matter some further consideration. In reply to the Chairman's question, however, he stated that he is prepared to join in a recommendation by the Executive Committee to USCIB.

MR. POLYZOIDES said that it appears, then, that the Committee cannot take final action and that a special meeting of the Board may be necessary.

LT. COLONEL HARROLD agreed.

The CHAIRMAN opened the discussion by asking the CIA member to present any additional information on considerations affecting the CIA position. He said that he would then ask the NSA member for any information he may have as to the relative value of the prospective COMINT involved.

OGA

described at some length the interests of CIA in this matter. He explained that it had not been possible to go into the problem thoroughly prior to the last meeting and that, following the meeting, additional facts had come to light which alter somewhat the position taken earlier by his Agency.

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[REDACTED]

Director, NSA has stated his unwillingness to provide the [REDACTED] with any COMINT. In view of the foregoing, he requested that the problem be reconsidered, and asked for an expression of NSA views on the subject.

CAPTAIN AGNEW, acknowledging that [REDACTED] sites are not now as important as they once were in view of the acquisition of [REDACTED] and North African locations, stated that General Canine feels that [REDACTED]. He continued by saying that the importance of [REDACTED] bases will be greatly increased if we are unable to secure bases in [REDACTED] and if contemplated arrangements involving [REDACTED] fail to materialize. This, he said, is above and beyond the importance of [REDACTED] bases in the event of war. On the value of [REDACTED] COMINT he said that the principal objection lies in the inability to receive it on a timely basis, adding that another obstacle is the inability to assign the [REDACTED] a direct problem, resulting in the receipt of material which is not particularly responsive to NSA requirements, and which is, in large measure, overlapping because it is received from four separate sources. He pointed out that the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MR. BUFFHAM reported on the quality of the [REDACTED] by stating that some of it varies from fair to excellent, with the major portion of it being good. On the value of the intelligence it contains, he said the material would be good if more timely receipt could be arranged. He also pointed out that the [REDACTED] meets NSA intelligence requirements to the extent of 5% to 10%, and that in many instances this is the [REDACTED] received.

On the subject of quid pro quo, CAPTAIN AGNEW stated that his Director has stated that he would not be opposed, at the present time, to providing the [REDACTED]

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MR. BUFFHAM went on to explain that a principal difficulty in [REDACTED] is that the necessary changing of format, editing, etc., is expensive and difficult.

The CHAIRMAN said that he would like to hear some discussion regarding the potential of the proposed bases, following which he would like to hear the views of the Department of State member on the political considerations.

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CAPTAIN AGNEW stated the opinion of the Director, NSA, that sites at both [redacted] will certainly be [redacted]

MR. POLYZOIDES, speaking to the political implications, said that the Political Bureau feels that the whole base rights package probably would not be prejudiced if the requirement for the specific bases in question were to be withdrawn. He added, however, that a final decision in his Department would not be sought until a clear position is agreed upon at Board level.

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MR. POLYZOIDES observed that NSA and the Services do not appear to offer strong support for these bases, [redacted]

He suggested that it might be well to consider withdrawing, for the time being, the request for these two sites, and reopening the subject as a new approach in, perhaps, a year.

After further discussion, MR. PATTON suggested that the high-level representatives of NSA [redacted] with the U.S. Charge, meet with [redacted] and present the matter to him in such a way as to recognize his past and present assistance, but inform him that we have a project which, while it will not affect his operations or our assistance to them, is of a strictly U.S. nature which must be handled completely on our own. He said that he envisions this as a "more 'yes' than 'no'" approach and one under which the U.S. delegates should be authorized to

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withdraw the request for these two bases should [redacted] opposition to the tenor of the approach deem such action desirable. He suggested that a diplomatic approach along these lines would at least give us an opportunity to get a definite reaction from [redacted], even though such a reaction may well be negative.

OGA

[redacted]

The members discussed at length the alternate proposals set forth above and allied proposals as well in an effort to agree upon a solution acceptable to all. Such unanimity was not achieved; however, a majority of the members expressed their preference for the proposal made by Mr. Patton

[redacted]

CAPTAIN AGNEW informed the members that his Director will be unable to accept that part of the recommendation which would authorize the negotiators in advance to withdraw the request for base rights.

This reservation was noted by the members.

The CHAIRMAN informed the members that he saw no purpose in further discussion and would refer the matter to the Chairman of the Board, at which time the CIA member could present his minority view.

DECISION: (21 September 1954) The members of USCIBEC, with the exception of the CIA member, agreed in principle that an approach to General [redacted] along the lines suggested by Mr. Patton should be made by a high-level representative of NSA, [redacted], accompanied by the U.S. Chargé in [redacted]. It was further agreed that the Chairman should present the case to the Chairman of USCIB.

INTAL.

The meeting adjourned at 1640.

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