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Digest of Staff Conference, 8 September 1953

Chiefs of Offices and  
Staff Divisions

c/s

8 Sept 1953

1. DIRECTOR

a. Stated his opposition to sending NSA personnel on trips to handle official business which could be handled just as successfully by a telephone call or a letter: WE AREN'T GOING TO SEND PEOPLE ON TRIPS WHEN WE CAN GET THE SAME JOB DONE WITH A PHONE CALL OR A THREE-CENT STAMP. WE'RE DOING TOO MUCH NEEDLESS TRAVELING! LET'S USE MORE DISCRETION IN THIS MATTER OF CHOOSING MEANS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD.

b. After hearing SCHOOL's report on the completion of its first Oriental Language Course, directed SCHOOL to look into the need for instituting another class in oriental languages and make report of findings.

c. In response to TEC's request that the provisions of NSA Regulation 20-7 be implemented by other parts of the Agency, Director stated his dissatisfaction with the implications, in terms of administrative competence, of failure of some parts of the Agency to comply with the regulation's requirement that they provide TEC with a copy of each technical paper produced by them: WITH ALL THE ADMINISTRATIVE PEOPLE WE HAVE AROUND THIS AGENCY, THIS INCIDENT PRESENTS AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT JUST WHO, IN EACH OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMPONENTS CONCERNED, IS FAILING TO READ THE PERTINENT REGULATION AND TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION!

d. Noted his belief that the Services are paying too much for their communications facilities and service, and that the study of this matter being made by COMM would reveal some disconcerting information.

e. In response to Captain Goodwin's comment about the serious implications of recent steps by Navy to release SDO-1615 officers to inactive duty, directed PERS to investigate the factors and implications of the purported plans and actions.

f. Referred to his comments, at the time of the Staff Meeting of 25 August, regarding the obligation of every superior to provide his subordinates with training in management and administration: HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT TRAINING YOUR SUBORDINATES SINCE I RAISED THE POINT TWO WEEKS AGO, AND HOW MANY OF YOUR SUBORDINATES HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT PROVIDING SUCH TRAINING TO THEIR SUBORDINATES? LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS--WE'LL BE JUST AS GOOD IN THIS BUSINESS AS OUR TRAINING PROGRAM IS EFFECTIVE DOWN THE CHAIN FROM SUPERIOR TO SUBORDINATE. TRAIN YOUR SUBORDINATES. I WANT TO SEE THIS TRAINING PROGRAM PUT INTO PRACTICE---NOW!

2. ADJUTANT GENERAL

a. Solicited the submission of ideas on the general subject of classification of documents for consideration by the board set up to study the problem of

setting up standards for guidance for all parts of the Agency. Noted that the next meeting of the board would be in two weeks.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Reported that the week-end had been very unfavorable for the transmission of radio waves, and that the trans-Atlantic circuits had been "out again." Added that the Director of Communications-Electronics was aware of the need for improvement of the communication facilities available to NSA, and predicted that by the week's end NSA should have a more acceptable answer than the "activation of M-Day circuits" resorted to in the present instance of ionospheric disruption of the radio spectrum.

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