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Meeting of the Executive Group for Board Affairs
held at JCS at 1400 in the Conference Room
July 19, 1953

JUN 30 1953

Present:

Members

Mr. W. T. Friedman, Chairman
Mr. G. Mallory
Mr. A. Risher
Mr. H. Gandy
Mr. H. A. Ladd, Secretary
Mr. H. L. Clark (for Col. Scoville)

Observers

Col. T. W. Nottingham
Col. J. Smith
Col. J. J. Gregory

The minutes of the Advisory Board meeting of 11 June were examined, particularly the following statement: "The Advisory Board discussed the problem of warning in the contribution which COMINT can or could make to the warning of an impending attack on the United States. The Board raised the question of whether the Director, NSA, might consider it desirable to request the Advisory Board to inaugurate a study of this problem."

Mr. Friedman, indicating that General Gurnea had directed that the study should be initiated without delay, presented a draft of a letter from General Gurnea to the Board requesting it to undertake the study. NSAAS approved the draft prepared by Mr. Friedman.

There was a long discussion of the problem and how it should be handled. The type of warning could be "early" or "advance." The first of these (based on intercept or I/A indications) is the one to be studied intensively, since such systems has been put on it recently. The study might have been undertaken by the Special Operations Subcommittee (called the "Continental Defense Committee" or "Ball Committee") of the National Defense Council, but it has been decided otherwise. Consequently the study will have to be done for COMINT alone, without expending its effectiveness or expense with competing systems. The possibility of the Advisory Board cooperating with the Ball Committee is limited by the directive in the letter committee to make a report by 15 July. It was agreed by all that the restrictions on dissemination of COMINT left the Advisory Board as the only group to make the study. It was agreed that Prof. Friedman is the member best qualified to direct the project.

Col. Gregory proposed a statement of a more detailed directive to the Board, as follows: "The Advisory Board be requested to examine into the capabilities of the U.S. COMINT effort under the present and under a possibly expanded program with a view to appraising percentage-wise our probability of providing effective warning information; then, having completed this step, to initiate further studies concerning the impact on current (or other parts of) overall U.S. Air Defense program of an augmented COMINT program." It was subsequently decided to leave Mr. Friedman's draft of General Gurnea's letter to Prof. Gurnea in its original version.

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Mr. Friedman outlined a procedure for getting action quickly. He would send the letter to the Chairman, Prof. Collins, with information copies to the members. They will call Prof. Collins on the telephone and ask him to request Prof. Robertson to begin immediately on the project. It is probable that Collins will be preoccupied with other matters, and Robertson and others have volunteered to undertake this study.

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
Chairman

Copy furnished:

Mr. W. F. Friedman
Mr. R. Hillborn
Mr. A. Minkov
Mr. R. Gumpel
Mr. R. A. Leibler
Col. Rowlett

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