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Authority NLE 2011-71 #5

By CJA NLDDE Date 07/21/12

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

26 October 1960



MEMORANDUM OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
(Wednesday, 26 October 1960 at 10:45 a. m.)

1. I first took up with the President the Record of Actions of the NSC meeting of October 13. I pointed out to him the disagreement between The Attorney General and the State Department with respect to Item 1 c. I indicated to the President that it was not clear to me why the State Department objected to The Attorney General's language but it seemed to me that The Attorney General's language was better. The President indicated that he would like to speak to Mr. Herter about this and he kept the draft record of actions and the two views reflected in the attached statements in his possession.

2. I then took up the Record of Actions of the NSC meeting of October 20 which had taken place while the President was away from Washington. I expressed to him that we had had the meeting just to make sure that everything was up to date with respect to the situation in Laos, the Congo and Cuba. I indicated to the President that the only paragraph that I wished to discuss with him was paragraph 3 entitled, "Future Nuclear Capabilities in the NATO Area," which I read to him. I said that the State Department questioned whether this paragraph should be included and whereas I did not think it was a matter of overriding importance, it would be helpful to me to have it in. I explained to the President that I had been trying for a long time to get the matters covered in this report in the Council and the President agreed that it should be left in and I said that I would approve the Record on his behalf.

3. I then took up with the President the Seventh Report to the President by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities dated October 4, 1960. I briefed the President in accordance with the attached briefing note. With respect to the first recommendation the President felt that while it was all right to ask the Director of Central Intelligence to furnish to the President his views and recommendations in accordance with the Board's recommendation by December 1, 1960, he also thought to have this recommendation discussed in the NSC might be helpful.

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With respect to the second recommendation, the President approved the following action:

"Approved the subject recommendation by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities regarding Duplication (Publications) and requested that the Director of Central Intelligence (a) refer the recommendation for implementation by the departments and agencies concerned, and (b) submit a report to the President by January 6, 1961, concerning the implementing action taken thereon."

With respect to the third recommendation, the President approved the following action:

"Noted the subject recommendation by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, in its report dated October 4, 1960, regarding the renewal of the peripheral ELINT Ferret operations of SAC and requested that the Secretary of Defense furnish views and comments thereon to the President at the earliest practicable date."



As to the fourth recommendation, I pointed out to the President that the Defense Department in all likelihood would not be too happy about this recommendation. The President felt that he would like to discuss it with the Secretary of Defense and instructed me to acquaint Mr. Gates with the nature of the recommendation and request that he discuss it with the President.

As to the fifth recommendation, the President seemed surprised that the Secretary of Defense did not now have the authority to take the actions enumerated by the President's Board of Consultants. He said that clearly if the authority did not exist he would like to have the views of the Secretary of Defense in the matter and tighten things up as much as possible.

Gordon Gray
Special Assistant to the President

cc: Mr. Lay

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