

January 23, 1959

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Discussion at the Special Meeting held in the Cabinet Room of The White House prior to the 394th NSC Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 1959

Present at the Special Meeting on the subject of Foreign Intelligence and related activities held at the direction of the President in the Cabinet Room of The White House prior to the 394th Meeting of the National Security Council were the President of the United States, Presiding; the Secretary of State; the Secretary of Defense; the Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization; the Secretary of the Treasury; the Acting Director, Bureau of the Budget; the Under Secretary of State; the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Director, U.S. Information Agency; the Director, International Cooperation Administration; the Assistant to the President; the Special Assistants to the President for Foreign Economic Policy, for National Security Affairs, and for Security Operations Coordination; the White House Staff Secretary; the Assistant White House Staff Secretary; Assistant Secretary of State Gerard C. Smith; Assistant Secretary of Defense John N. Irwin, II; Mr. Cord Meyer for the Deputy Director, Plans, CIA; the Executive Secretary, NSC; the Deputy Executive Secretary, NSC.

There follows a summary of the discussion at the meeting and the main points taken.

1. THE ASIA FOUNDATION

Mr. Gray explained that this meeting had been called to permit the Director of Central Intelligence to discuss the activities of the Asia Foundation and the activities of the Congress for Cultural Freedom which time had not permitted him to discuss at the Special Meeting on Thursday, January 15. Thereafter Mr. Gray called on the Director of Central Intelligence who explained that the functions of the Asia Foundation would be discussed by Mr. Cord Meyer, the head of CIA's [redacted] Mr. Meyer then proceeded to report to the Council on the activities of the Asia Foundation.

SPECIAL MEETING
(1/22/59)

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At the conclusion of Mr. Meyer's presentation, the President said that he had one question to ask. He noted that Mr. Meyer had stated that the annual budget for the Asia Foundation amounted to [redacted]. The President recalled, however, that mention had been made at the meeting on January 15 that the total budget for the Asia Foundation amounted to approximately [redacted]. Mr. Meyer explained that the [redacted] budget constituted, strictly speaking, a program budget which included no overhead. For example, it did not include the salaries of the officials of the Foundation nor their travel expenses and similar matters. The President then inquired if the Government put up some [redacted] to support the Asia Foundation, how much money in support of this Foundation was contributed by private individuals or private organizations? Mr. Allen Dulles replied that very little was put into the pot by private foundations - not more than about [redacted] a year. Mr. Dulles explained that it had not been thought wise to launch public campaigns to solicit funds for the work of the Asia Foundation.

Mr. George Allen complimented the activities of the Asia Foundation as being based on a very fine type of operation and as being conducted on very sound principles and a firm basic concept. Mr. Allen inquired how successfully the "cover" of the Asia Foundation had been maintained. Mr. Dulles replied that the cover had been maintained very successfully, citing as proof of this the fact that the Foundation was able to continue its activities [redacted]

Mr. Allen then inquired whether there were any plans to extend the work of the Asia Foundation to the Middle East. Mr. Dulles replied that there were no such plans for the present organization.

2. CONGRESS OF CULTURAL FREEDOM

Mr. Allen Dulles explained the nature of the work of the Congress and said that we got more "mileage" out of this organization than any other sponsored by the CIA. He noted that the leadership and the activities of the Congress of Cultural Freedom were thoroughly international in character with relatively few U.S. citizens participating. After citing various prominent individuals in the Free World who were engaged in the work of the Congress, Mr. Dulles noted that the cost of supporting the Congress was about [redacted] a year [redacted]. The hand of the U.S. in the work of the Congress was only faintly visible.

S. Everett Gleason
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