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Executive Registry
65-5843

7 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with General Maxwell D. Taylor on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

I called on General Taylor at his request to discuss developments over the past year or so in connection with a Cuban case of some years' standing. There was nothing in this discussion of any particular interest to CIA.

I then told General Taylor that some of us felt that the briefings of the Panels of the PFIAB last week were perhaps not entirely responsive to what the members wanted. He agreed at once. He said that the briefing on organization was entirely responsive but that some of the rest were not along the lines of their agenda. I explained that the only agenda we had received was given to us orally by Pat Coyne in two separate conversations and we thought we had it clearly in mind. General Taylor suggested I check to make sure that the agenda had not been misplaced in the Agency, as he was sure one must have been sent to us. I said I was really afraid it had not, because at other times in the past we had not received formal agendas.

I went on to say that apart from this apparent misdirecting of some of our presentation, which could be avoided with a clear understanding of what is wanted, we felt that too many items were scheduled in the time available to make it possible to give a rational picture of what we are doing. I noted that two major subjects had not been covered at all last week and that there was always the danger, in too compressed a presentation, that wrong impressions might be left -- also that it was probably not entirely satisfactory to them to have to get supplementary written submissions after the meeting.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE PFIAB)

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General Taylor replied that he had always felt the Board might be trying to cover too many subjects without the opportunity to go into sufficient depth, but that this was due to their desire to use their limited time to the best advantage. I suggested that he might want to consider, on an experimental basis, choosing only a few topics which could then be covered in considerable depth. General Taylor asked whether my suggestion was designed to permit the Agency simply to surface a few problems of its own choosing, to which I replied that this was not at all the idea. I said the point of the suggestion was simply to allow enough time for discussion and questions, which should lead to better understanding of whatever subjects they wished. He thought this was worth considering.

He then said he himself was prepared to spend more time in informing himself on matters of interest to the Board and that he would be glad to come out to Langley for this purpose. I said we would welcome this, and that perhaps Gordon Gray might find himself in the same position. He agreed. He told me that his Panels are concerned with:

a. The over-all effort, "the role of the DCI." Himself and Mr. Clifford.

b. Overt intelligence, including budgetary matters. Himself and Ambassador Murphy.

c. Covert intelligence and covert action. Himself, Ambassador Murphy and Mr. Gray.

d. DIA. Himself and Mr. Gray.

I informed General Taylor that the DCI had discussed with Mr. Clifford and Mr. Coyne the security implications of the annual report. He thought that the Director was entirely justified in raising this question. I said that I suspected, based on similar situations in the past, that Pat Coyne would conclude that he could give the document adequate security safeguarding. General Taylor thought we would be well advised to satisfy ourselves on this point. He was not familiar with this report, and asked whether it was "the annual report to the President." I explained that it was put to us as a request from the Board.

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Finally, I said that it seemed to me there could be some possible overlapping of the Director's community responsibilities with the responsibilities assumed by the Board. I added that this is particularly pertinent now in view of President Johnson's letter. I said I understood that Admiral Raborn had suggested to Mr. Clifford that it would be useful to him in carrying out his duties to attend meetings of the Board other than those restricted to CIA. General Taylor demurred, saying that there could well be cases where the Board would want to have frank, "internal discussions" and that the presence of "an outsider" might inhibit them. I replied that sessions of that kind would of course be privileged to the Board, but that the idea would be that the DCI be present when other major components of the intelligence community are making presentations, in order to help him in carrying out his coordinating responsibilities and perhaps avoid having some of them pass by default to the Board.

General Taylor said that much of the work of the Board will be done by individual Panels, which will visit DIA, etc., and surely Admiral Raborn would not wish to take time out from his busy schedule to attend these. I repeated that this was not the suggestion at all but rather that he attend over-all meetings of the Board, other than those they might wish to consider internal working sessions. He said that he thought there was some validity to this and that he would like to think about it and perhaps discuss it with Mr. Clifford, but that there were not too many meetings of this kind.

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cc: DCI
DDCI
ExDir-Comptroller

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