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26 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CIA Subcommittees of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee

1. On 21 May 1958 the Director and Messrs. Wisner, Amory, Lloyd, Houston, and General Cabell (for a short time at the close of the session) met with the following members of the CIA Subcommittees of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee: Richard B. Russell (D., Ga.), Leverett Saltonstall (R., Mass.), Carl Hayden (D., Ariz.), Styles Bridges (R., N. H.), and Mr. William H. Darden, staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

2. Senator Russell opened the meeting with a question on whether the South American episodes were Communist inspired and what we had known about them. Mr. Dulles recounted the changing Communist tactics from the Stalinist use of force to the present more subtle infiltration and action through economic penetration and alliance with leftwing groups. He said that South America had long been a Communist target and that they had developed a hard core in each of the countries, which had been continually built up so that they were well staffed throughout South America. Also, particularly at the present time, the economic approach of the Communist government is appealing to South America as the Communists are willing to accept payment in kind from available South American surpluses whereas the United States has no requirement or may even be a competitor.

3. Mr. Dulles pointed out that the role of the universities in South America differed from that of U. S. institutions, in that they had a tradition of taking an active part in politics on the one hand and on the other were free from control to the extent that they could even furnish

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asylum to those sought by the police. Further, the student body was largely in control rather than the faculty, and the universities, therefore, became a nucleus for radicals and agitators. [redacted] Senator Russell asked if the [redacted] government advised against a visit to the university, and the Director answered that they had not flatly given such advice.

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4. [redacted] he pointed out that the reaction to the [redacted] regimes had led to the abolition of the old security forces and to lax security standards and that the government had in fact ordered troops and police not to be violent with rioters. Senator Russell [redacted]

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5. Senator Saltonstall asked if the Director had been let down in any way by the CIA staff. Mr. Dulles said no, with the one exception that we had failed to appraise properly the very specific assurances given by the [redacted] government as to security precautions. These had been given in detail and appeared adequate, as we did not know at the time that some of the arrangements and orders had been countermanded.

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6. Senator Hayden asked what repercussions we had noted in South America to sending the Marines to the Caribbean. Mr. Dulles said there had been little and it was dying out quickly, although Communists will continue to use it.

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(It appeared to me that the Senators or at least some of them had not understood this delicate situation and were much impressed by the difficulty of the problem. Senator Russell remarked to the effect that this was one which they, the Senators, should stay out of.)

10. Senator Russell inquired about Algerian troop strength and Mr. Amory pointed out that they stay at a fairly constant figure because they had adequate recruits ready to draw on at all times. Senator Russell

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12. Senator Russell asked about Indochina, and Mr. Dulles said it was relatively quiet there except for Laos. He recounted the story of

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Mr. Wisner said one hopeful note was that some of the younger army leaders looked like good material and were dedicated anti-Communists. Mr. Dulles said Laos was the key to the arch and if we were to drop our aid it would collapse.

13. Senator Hayden asked if any new governments formed, particularly since the war, followed the U. S. system or the French and British type of government. Mr. Wisner pointed out that South Vietnam has a strong executive somewhat on the U. S. system. He said President Diem was worried about the resurgence of active subversion which is encouraged by the Cambodian antagonism toward South Vietnam to the extent that the Cambodians allow raiding parties and subversive elements to retreat over the border for asylum in Cambodia. Mr. Dulles told Senator Hayden that he was interested in the question about the types of governments which had been formed and would prepare and submit a report on this subject.

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15. Senator Saltonstall said he was quite worried about the fact that the Agency's cold war activities might endanger or impair its information gathering function. Senator Bridges said that in his opinion we should do more of the cold war activities. Mr. Dulles pointed out that the Russians have a huge organization throughout the world and someone has to counter it. Senator Saltonstall asked what the Agency's role in this respect was, and Mr. Dulles pointed out that the program had been bipartisan, started by President Truman and continued by President Eisenhower, was carried out under National Security Council directives,

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were under close policy guidance and were very closely followed by the policy agencies who stated the objectives but gave some latitude in the manner in which they were carried out. He also pointed out that it was

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16. Senator Russell asked if the information from Russia and Red China bore out the broadening of their economic base. The Director said he would send Senator Russell a copy of a speech he had made on this very subject.

17. Senator Russell asked if there were any disturbance in China. The Director said nothing serious, that there had been some rumblings after the apparent freedom given in the 100 flowers speech of Mao and the subsequent crackdown, but no unified resistance.

18. Senator Saltonstall asked if Khrushchev's position was weakening. Mr. Dulles said it was hard to tell; he was in a lonely position and there was no second man. He pointed out that for the long range the important thing in his mind was the intensive educational drive which was bound to start people thinking and the more recent decentralization, particularly of industry.

19. Senator Russell asked if we had any recent estimates on Russian ICBM capabilities, and the Director gave the results of our most recent appraisals. General Cabell stated in answer to a question that he felt the ICBM was not in series production but next year should see a small capability.

SIGNED

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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