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ER 5-1319

10 February 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development)

SUBJECT: Requirement for Intelligence Information on Soviet Activities in Biological Warfare Research, Development and Production

1. In your memorandum of 5 November 1953 (subject as above) you suggest a review of the progress made on biological warfare intelligence as a result of action which was taken by General Smith, as discussed in his memorandum of 25 October 1952. I assure you that the IAC agencies are continuing their efforts to improve intelligence in this critical field. As a matter of fact, some increase in our knowledge of the underlying capabilities of the USSR for research, development and production of BW agents is reflected in recent studies prepared by the JIC and also by CIA, which, I understand, have been made available to you. There has also been a slight increase in our intelligence collection and analysis capabilities.

2. Rather than detailing the administrative steps we have been, and are, taking to improve BW intelligence, may I suggest that your needs in the planning of biological warfare research and development programs would appear to be more directly served by an intelligence estimate of Soviet biological warfare capabilities and intentions, with as much supporting detail as is available.

3. Accordingly, in order to be as helpful as possible, the IAC has agreed to prepare a scientific and technical intelligence estimate on USSR BW capabilities and their intentions to develop such capabilities. This would be as comprehensive and complete as our available information will allow and will be undertaken at once, scheduled for completion by March 15, 1954, and will be revised periodically as warranted by new intelligence. I am asking the Chairman of the Scientific Estimates Committee, which will prepare this estimate, to consult with your planners initially so that the terms of reference of the estimate will meet your needs as nearly as possible.

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4. In addition, subsequent to the findings of the NIE, a separate estimate may be produced on Soviet capabilities and intentions to employ BW, or this subject will be treated in estimates now scheduled for production in late 1954.

/signed/

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

CONCUR:

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

Dispatched by ~~DCI~~ DIC after concurrence by IAC

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