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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-2000

25 MAR 1976

POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. STEARMAN, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PSYOP Committee

(S) As per our last discussion, attached is a draft charter for an additional committee which would report to the SPG in the NSDD-77 mechanism. This would constitute one track of the dual track approach suggested by Dr. Ikle. The other track would be a PSYOP committee reporting to the PCG. Dual membership on both committees by a few individuals should assist in the coordination of PSYOP programs.

(S) I believe that the draft charter affords a degree of generalization similar to the charters of the existing NSDD-77 committees, thus hopefully will allow us to move past the line-by-line haggling over more comprehensive terms of reference during previous meetings. At the same time, the charter clearly places the responsibility for defining peacetime PSYOP activities on the committee, as well as for providing appropriate interagency coordination and policy guidance for the participation of DoD in such activities - as specified in NSDD-130.

(S) Since both Gerry Helman and Phil Arnold have asked for more illustrative examples of DoD's participation in peacetime PSYOP, I propose that DoD present a briefing on PSYOP programs supporting our foreign policy objectives in Central America. From our perspective, the best time to present such a briefing would be the period 14-25 April. This briefing, plus discussion of the draft PSYOP committee charter, would constitute the agenda for our next meeting.

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Alfred H. Paddock, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
Director for Psychological
Operations

Attachment
a/s

cc: Mr. Alderman - DUSD(P)
Mr. [REDACTED] ODUSD(P)/PSP
Mr. [REDACTED] - ODUSD(P)/SAS
COL [REDACTED] J-33 POD

CLASSIFIED BY DIR, PSYOP
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psychological Operations Committee: This committee will be chaired by a representative of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. A senior representative of the Department of Defense will serve as vice chairman of the Committee. This group will be responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing psychological operations activities in support of United States policies and interests relative to national security. The committee will provide the focal point for interagency coordination of detailed contingency planning for the management of national information assets during war, and for the transition from peace to war. It will coordinate interagency information assets and develop national policy guidance to respond to the operational needs of military commanders during crises. It will formulate and define the nature of overt psychological operations activities in peacetime, and provide appropriate interagency coordination and policy guidance for the participation of the Department of Defense in these programs, as directed by NSDD-130. The committee shall be empowered to make recommendations and, as appropriate, to direct the concerned departments and agencies to implement psychological operations strategies in support of key policy objectives, and to insure that these strategies complement US public diplomacy and international information activities.

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To implement NSDD 130, a Psychological Operations Committee (POC) will be created consisting of representatives from Defense, State, CIA, USIA, and other agencies when required. This Committee will be chaired by designated representatives of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

NSDD 130 stressed the importance of psychological factors in maintaining the confidence of allied governments and in deterring military action against U.S. national interests. In order to employ psychological operations (PSYOP) effectively and economically, the POC shall establish national PSYOP guidelines, and define the roles and relationships of the agencies involved in PSYOP. NSDD 130 further stated that in order to be prepared for the immediate and effective use of PSYOP in crisis and wartime, it is vital that the Armed Forces maintain a strong and active international information capability; therefore, the POC shall ensure that the Department of Defense gives high priority to the revitalization and full integration of PSYOP in military operations and planning, and to promoting a funded PSYOP program.

Crisis and wartime conditions impose special requirements on U.S. international information activities. The POC shall seek to ensure that in wartime or during crises (which may be defined as periods of acute tension involving a threat to the lives of American citizens or the imminence of war between the U.S. and other nations), U.S. international information elements are ready to initiate special procedures to ensure policy consistency, timely response and rapid feedback from the intended audience.

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The agencies represented on the POC should review and, as necessary, develop procedures for their operations during crises.

NSDD 130 also directs the Department of Defense, with appropriate interagency cooperation and in accordance with national law and policy, to participate in PSYOP programs in peacetime. Department of Defense participation in other international information activities shall continue to be under the SPG which should take the lead in developing coordinated interagency plans, including the utilization of DOD capabilities, for such activities in support of national security objectives. When appropriate and required, the POC shall work with the SPG in coordinating PSYOP with other international information activities.