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June 19, 1957

With reference to the Deception project, a meeting of the 5412 group was held in the Under Secretary's office today, there being in attendance the following: Gov. Herter, Allen Dulles, Mansfield Sprague, General Erskine, and Robert Cutler.

Herter stated that on balance he and the Secretary thought the project involved a greater risk of damage if it were unmassed, which seemed fairly likely.

I advanced the following difficulties with the proposed project, from my point of view:

- (1) In view of America's widely publicized in press failures to make the IRM work, can the deception succeed?
- (2) If the deception succeeds, will it not also deceive the American people and the Congress, - with possible inquiries and hurtful results?
- (3) Will the effect on the Russians be to deceive them in being scared of the U.S. and deterred, or feel impelled to act more quickly to fight in order to get ahead?
- (4) How should such a matter be arranged between JCS and DCI? Is not the latter in charge of deception overseas?

Mr. Allen Dulles thought we should defer for six months, at least, any use of dummies or working with the UK.

There was no final decision as to whether the deception project was a wise policy or not. A great deal of doubt was expressed as to whether it was wise.

It was left that Allen Dulles and Erskine would confer on writing out a minute as to the assets that were available (double agent) for carrying out such a deception project, and report back before any further action was taken. At least we would then know what could be done in the way of planting papers, etc.

There was no decision as to the basic policy and there was a unanimous feeling that the use of dummies, etc., should not be undertaken for six months after further consideration.

R.C.

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