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E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4(b)
Agency Case NSC F88-1272
NLE Case MR 88-232 #1
By DJH NLE Date 12/6/89

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Discussion at the 222nd Meeting
of the National Security Council,
Thursday, November 4, 1954

Present at this meeting were the President of the United States, presiding; the Vice President of the United States; the Secretary of State; the Secretary of Defense; the Director, Foreign Operations Administration; and the Director, Office of Defense Mobilization. Others present were the Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. Brundage for the Director, Bureau of the Budget; the Federal Civil Defense Administrator; the Director, U. S. Information Agency; the Under Secretary of State; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of the Army; the Acting Secretary of the Navy; the Secretary of the Air Force; the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Vice Chief of Staff, U. S. Army; the Chief of Naval Operations; the Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force; the Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Assistant to the President; Robert Cutler, Special Assistant to the President; the Deputy Assistant to the President; the White House Staff Secretary; the Naval Aide to the President; the NSC Representative on Internal Security. The following NSC Planning Board Members and Advisers were also present: Mr. Bowie, State; Gen. Bonesteel, Defense; Mr. Elliott, ODM; Gen. Gerhart, JCS; Mr. Amory, CIA; Mr. Reid, Bureau of the Budget; Mr. Tompkins, Justice; Mr. Snapp, AEC; Mr. Spear, FCDA; Mr. Staats, OCB. Also present were the following from the Net Capabilities Evaluation Subcommittee: Mr. Belmont for the Chairman, IIC; Mr. Yeagley, Chairman, ICIS; Adm. Robbins, Director of the Staff; Gen. Bull, Alternate, CIA; Dr. Cline, Alternate Member, CIA; Mr. Weber, Executive Secretary for the Subcommittee; Cdr. Bright, USN; Col. Stuart M. Alley, USA; Col. Walter V. Gresham, Jr., USAF. The Executive Secretary, NSC, and the Deputy Executive Secretary, NSC, also were present at the meeting.

There follows a summary of the discussion at the meeting and the main points taken.

EVALUATION OF NET CAPABILITIES
(NSC 5423; NSC Action No. 1164)

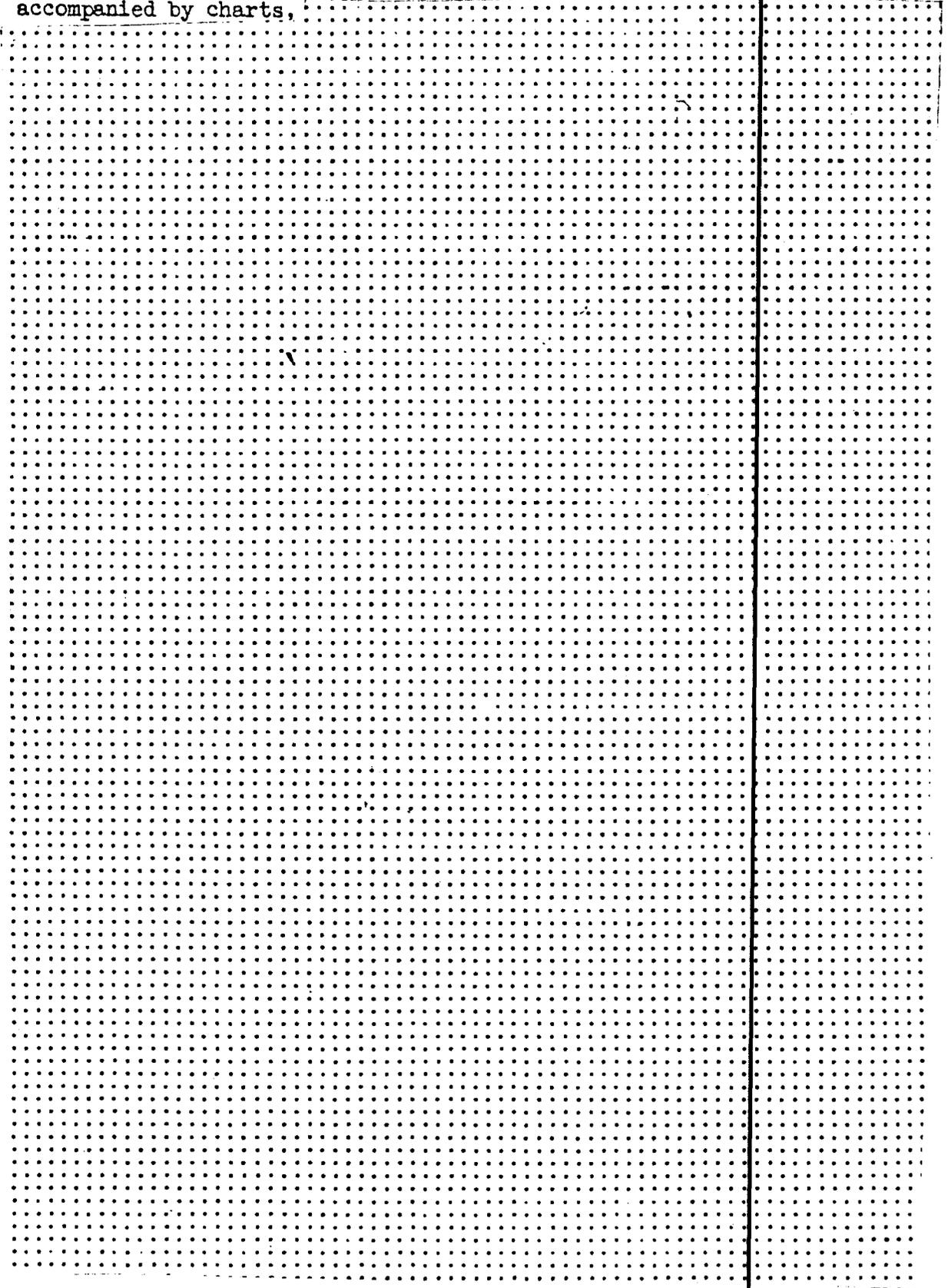
After briefing the Council on the manner in which the reference report had been formulated, Mr. Cutler called on Admiral Robbins to brief the Council orally on the content of the report.

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At the conclusion of Admiral Robbins' briefing, which was accompanied by charts,



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The President asked Mr. Belmont if there was anything in the Subcommittee's report which would actually limit the present efforts of the FBI to discover and track down any clandestine attacks or attackers. Mr. Belmont replied in the negative. The President then said that the issue between the IIC and the ICIS on the one hand and the remaining agencies on the other, boiled down to a difference in the estimate of the risk of clandestine attack, the Subcommittee taking one view and the IIC and the ICIS another.

Mr. Cutler inquired whether the radar and fighter-interceptor capabilities cited in the report were actually programmed for Fiscal Year 1957. Admiral Robbins replied that the responsible authorities had said that they were.

Secretary Humphrey inquired if the FY 1957 U. S. capabilities used in the report were possible within present budgetary plans. Admiral Robbins replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Cutler asked the Council if they did not desire to approve in principle the recommendations made by Admiral Radford and Mr. Allen Dulles in their letter of transmittal, to the effect that a permanent procedure to make future net capabilities evaluations be established. The President said that he would approve such a general recommendation, but wanted further study of the exact manner in which procedures and staffing were to be arranged. Secretary Wilson urged

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that procedure be established in such fashion that the same people would not be making the evaluations over and over again. He stressed the need for fresh evaluations.

In conclusion, Admiral Radford pointed out that the date given to the Subcommittee by the Council for the hypothetical attack (July 1, 1957) was extremely significant. He said he thought that the picture, from the point of view of the United States, would be at that date just about the most optimistic that we could have. Before that date, our U. S. defenses will be expanding rapidly. After that date, however, Soviet capabilities will be growing very rapidly. The Council should bear these facts in mind as it considered the implications of the Subcommittee's report.

The National Security Council:

- a. Noted and discussed the report on the subject by the Net Capabilities Evaluation Subcommittee established by NSC Action No. 1164 and separate comments thereon by the Chairman, Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference, as orally presented at the meeting.
- b. Adopted the recommendation of the Net Capabilities Evaluation Subcommittee that there be established a permanent procedure to insure a continuous evaluation of the general nature of the one made by this Subcommittee, and a continual watch for significant changes; such procedure to provide for a report to the National Security Council at least once a year and, in any event, at whatever time changes become apparent that would significantly alter the net capabilities of the USSR to inflict direct injury upon the continental U. S. and key U. S. installations overseas.
- c. Noted the President's directive that a special subcommittee of the NSC Planning Board prepare for Council consideration a study and report on possible Soviet actions which might constitute clear indication of hostile intent.

NOTE: The recommendation in b above subsequently approved by the President with the understanding that the nature of the permanent procedures, including appropriate staffing, would be subject to future determination by the President.

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