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July 30, 1959

Mr. Bromley Smith

Kenneth P. Landon

**Briefing Memo re Report on Southeast Asia and Interim Operations Plan for Singapore, Board Assistants' July 31 Meeting**

The Report, which in this instance will presumably go forward to the NSC, recommends a review of policy with respect to Singapore. In the change sheet, distributed on July 29, the CIA proposed that this review be put "on an urgent basis," which, I am told, is acceptable to State. The reason for urgency is the belief in CIA that a more independent U. S. policy line should be taken in the future with respect to Singapore, and that U. S. actions should not necessarily be bound by British concurrence.

With the foregoing in mind, an Interim Operations Plan for Singapore was developed to accompany the Report to the Board, recognizing that a new operations plan will be required following review of policy. I would expect that most of the discussion at the Board Assistants' meeting will focus on the recommendation for review of policy, the evaluation of the situation in Singapore with respect to U. S. objectives, and the Interim Operations Plan for Singapore.

The Report contains no split positions. The changes contained in the change sheet of July 29 are of an updating nature and will probably not be controversial. It is possible that some question may be raised regarding the need for a regional evaluation of SEATO or of regional projects. The working group discussed this subject and decided that evaluations with respect to SEATO and relations among the Southeast Asian countries should be contained under the particular country evaluations in view of the divergent attitudes and degrees of participation in regional activities. Particular references to SEATO are made in connection with Burma, Laos, Malaya and Thailand. Evaluations of relations with other countries in the region are contained under Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaya and Thailand. It was thought that this treatment would have more significance. No evaluation was made of the Thai Foreign Minister's efforts to develop a Southeast Asia Community of nations separate and distinct from SEATO, because his efforts are at the primary stage and he has not yet succeeded in making firm arrangements for a meeting of the Southeast Asia Prime Ministers or Foreign Ministers.

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By MMK NLDDE Date 10/16/14





The working group examined all of the operations plans, and, with the exception of Singapore, found that they contained adequate guidance for current operations and, consequently, did not undertake their revision. It is expected that all the operations plans will be revised and put in the new format at the next semi-annual appraisal of policy and of operations plans.

Kindly note that the Singapore Operations Plan does not contain a Financial Annex because there are no U. S. programs in Singapore. In view of the fact that the other operations plans were not revised, there is no Financial Annex or Pipeline Analysis for any of the countries in connection with the Report, it being the working group's understanding that a Report to the Board and to the NSC should not include a Financial Annex under present procedures.

Also kindly note that the Operations Plan for Singapore contains no CIA Annex, inasmuch as the Agency did not provide one.

cc: Dr. Lilly