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TOP SECRET

16 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Thompson Committee Meeting

The attached folders represent material prepared for a Thompson Committee meeting held on 14 September in the Ambassador's office. Dr. McMillan and I attended. The meeting lasted about two hours.

The most surprising feature of this meeting was the proposed DCI briefing for foreign Heads of State and the North Atlantic Council. and which had been rushed to all committee members late Friday afternoon. Many committee members were not aware of its existence until Monday morning. Dr. Wheelon, representing the CIA, advised that Part I and Part III would be given to the NAC; the complete draft --Parts I, II and III -- was for principal Heads of State only. Mr. Fisher, ACDA, set what I thought would be the tone of the meeting by pointing out that any briefing to foreigners should barely give them the time of day; the DCI briefing not only gave the time of day, but told how to build the watch. Dr. Wheelon answered this very smoothly and proceeded with great confidence to assure the group that the DCI's intentions were clearly parallel to those of the Thompson Committee. Dr. Wheelon was negotiating some strength since it was soon clear that the State Department representatives were willing to pay for disclosure at any price including the replacement of Ambassador Finletter as the Federal spokesman to the NAC.

The meeting degenerated into an editorial conference, with very minor changes proposed. Toward the end of the meeting, Dr. Wheelon was careful once again to consult with Ambassador Thompson regarding his reaction to the DCI briefing. Ambassador Thompson's words ran something like this -"while I regret the delays of the past in overwriting and rewriting new drafts and hope such delays can be avoided in the future, I welcome this presentation as a step forward in our deliberations."

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