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THERE WERE NO OTHER COPIES MADE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

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Interagency Security Classification
Appeals Panel,

E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2018-086,
Document 3
Declassification Date: March 15, 2026

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1959



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

At the 25 March meeting of the 5412/2 group, the activities outlined in the attached memorandum dated 27 March were discussed. At that time approval of the Group was asked only for exploratory discussions with the GRC.

On the afternoon of 30 March a representative of the Director of Central Intelligence (Mr. Thomas Parrott) came to my office and indicated that the Director of Central Intelligence wished immediate approval of these activities. He informed me that Mr. Herter and Mr. Quarles had already given their approval.

After examining the document, I informed Mr. Parrott that because of the character and far-reaching possible consequences of these actions, I did not feel I could give my approval to them on behalf of the President without a discussion with the President. I thereupon at approximately 2:45 p. m. went to the President's office and described the proposal to him. He indicated that he would not wish to have the projects approved without further information as to several points with respect to Northwest China Operation and one point with respect to the China Proper Operation.

I then reported these points to Mr. Parrott who had remained in my office:

Northwest China

1. The President had exhibited concern about the route of flight. I had suggested to him that it was possible that the origin might be in East Pakistan.
2. He was concerned about the possibilities of detection and wished the best estimate that CIA could make on this point.
3. He was concerned to know the closest point of the Soviet border that would be involved in the operation.

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4. He was concerned that the commitment to undertake the proposed operation would involve no commitments whatsoever to further activities in this regard which would have to be considered as they might be proposed.

5. The President was concerned that there be absolutely no joint operations with the GRC in Tibet.

China Proper

1. The President was concerned that there be no joint guerrilla operations with the GRC.

Mr. Parrott indicated that it might take a little time to develop dependable material on all of these points.

On 1 April, Mr. Parrott returned to my office with the memorandum from the Director of Central Intelligence dated March 31 (attached) which addressed itself to the various points that the President made. On the basis of this memorandum and additional similar assurances given me by Mr. Parrott, I gave my approval on behalf of the President.

This memorandum with attachments is being hand-carried by me to General Goodpaster for the President's files. There are no copies of this memorandum nor of the attachments except as may have been retained by the Director of Central Intelligence.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Gray".

Gordon Gray
Special Assistant to the President

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