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Waller file

31 August 1951

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Park Armstrong, Department of State, on 22 August 1951 regarding Implementation in Germany of the JIOA Denial Program of German Scientists (Project 63)

REFERENCE:
(a) Memo dated 7 Aug 51, Weber to Chadwell (HITE: 01349), with enclosed copy of letter from B.R.Shute to W. Park Armstrong dated 3 Aug 51.

(b) Letter dated 3 Aug 51 , B.R.Shute to [redacted]

(c) Memo dated 13 Aug 51, [redacted] (HITE: 01357), transmitting Reference (b).

1. Conversation with Mr. Armstrong was solicited by AD/SI, and was also attended by Mr. A. H. Alexander, Operations/SI, and by [redacted] and Dr. J. B. Koepfli of the Department of State.

2. AD/SI confirmed the information given in the Shute- Armstrong letter, emphasized his personal concern about the possibility of the denial program of German scientists blowing up into an international incident, and reporting the concern of the British and their conclusions that there were repercussions in the British Zone of Germany. This information from the British (source undisclosed), included their appraisal as, "A clumsy approach, having potentiality for sizeable political repercussions if taken up officially by the German government, and of propaganda value to the Commies."

3. Armstrong was appreciative of the information, had studied the matter, evidently looked into the situation, and said that there were several lines of action which Department of State might take. The one which he preferred was to present the dilemma to the staff level of the National Security Council for a study to be made there.

4. Koepfli pointed out that if he had been successful in recruiting a top scientist for the post of scientific attaché in Germany, this problem might not have developed, particularly if it had been brought to the attention of the Department of State early in the program. He has been unsuccessful in filling the post, and has recently sent Dr. Detlev Bronk to Germany to make a study. Dr. Bronk has returned to this country, but there has not been an opportunity for Koepfli to receive Bronk's report.

5. Mr. Alexander pointed out that if JIOA extended its activities to approaching scientists in Eastern Germany, the program might run afoul of the Dragon Return program. This possibility is minimized by the fact that the

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scientists and technicians under the latter program have been out of Germany for a period of approximately four years. The possibility can completely be obviated by the comparison of the names on the Dragon Return program and on the List 63 of the JIOA.

6. In summation, it was pointed out that next action was up to the Department of State; that intelligence had fulfilled its function of reporting the situation, and that O/SI personnel continued to be available to help in any way requested.

Mr. Armstrong was told about the recently arrived letter from Colonel Tom Betts, in which a British intelligence officer recommended that thought be given at this time to the suitable control of German science after the termination of war officially with Germany. Mr. Armstrong and Dr. Koepfli recognized that this was primarily a Department of State matter, and promised to look into it. Again, O/SI offered any assistance that was desired.

[redacted]
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence