

May 3, 1950

NLT (NSC) 714

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Nitze
General Burns
General Bradley
Mr. Lanphier
Mr. Haas
Mr. Bissell
Mr. Schaub
Mr. Dearborn
Mr. Murphy
Mr. Montague
Mr. Voorhees

DECLASSIFIED

EO 12958, Sec. 1.4

Authority 87-84

By CB

Date 8/6/91

SUBJECT: Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on NSC 68
(May 2, 1950)

The Executive Secretary explained the purpose of the informal memorandum describing the initial meeting, and requested the Committee to make any corrections in the record therein contained. This led to a discussion of the proposed target date on which the departments and agencies should have produced their rough 5-year projection of plans and cost estimates in response to the President's directive. It was the consensus of the meeting that such plans and cost estimates should be produced at the earliest possible moment, particularly in view of the possibility that the President might desire to make a public statement on the situation described in NSC 68 early in June.

Discussion then shifted to the desirability of exploring ways and means of waging the cold war more effectively, apart from the military build-up contemplated in NSC 68, and apart from the necessity of largely increased appropriations. It was felt that much could be done to heighten the tempo of our operations within existing programs and appropriations. However, it was pointed out that the intensification of certain of the existing programs without a military build-up, might involve greater risk of war.

A suggestion that the Committee attempt to answer the President's letter in NSC 68 by June 1, even though the programs and cost estimates achieved by that date should prove very tentative, gave rise to discussion of the difficulty which might face the President if he called public attention to the threat posed by the Soviet Union without reference to a program and a cost figure to counter the threat.

TOP SECRET

The Committee thereupon discussed at considerable length certain aspects of the reasoning behind NSC 68, and certain of the implications of the Conclusions of the paper.

After further discussion it was agreed:

(1) That those representatives who sought further information as to the validity and implications of the Conclusions in NSC 68 would present their comments in writing to the Executive Secretary not later than Monday, May 8, 1950; and

(2) That on the same date those members of the Committee who were in a position to do so would send to the Executive Secretary, in writing, draft outlines of programs and cost estimates to serve as a basis for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m., having set the date of the next meeting for 2:30 p.m., May 9, 1950. Those present were Mr. Nitze, General Burns, Mr. Lanphier, Mr. Haas, Mr. Bissell, Mr. Schaub, Mr. Dearborn, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Montague, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Gleason and Mr. Lay.



JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary