

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

DATE: January 22, 1953

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

JUNE

SUBJECT: MICROPHONE AND TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS
IN U.S. EMBASSIES ABROAD

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Boardman _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Laughlin _____
- Walters _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

PURPOSE:

To report efforts of the Special Committee appointed at the direction of the President to consider security measures to be taken in connection with the finding of a new-type listening device in the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Moscow.

SYNOPSIS:

A meeting of the Special Committee appointed at the direction of the President, on which the IIC, CIA and the ICIS are represented, was held on January 16, 1953. The committee was advised by a representative of the Atomic Energy Commission that the countermeasure equipment to the resonant cavity can be produced at an AEC facility at Los Alamos, New Mexico, but the facility desires to know the number desired prior to making a cost estimate. That facility then desires to make only one group of the countermeasure equipment with no units to be produced at any later time. b3 per CIA

BACKGROUND:

A resonant cavity type listening device was found in the U.S. Ambassador's library in Moscow in September, 1952, and was delivered to the Bureau Laboratory for technical research. The Bureau Laboratory and the Naval Research Laboratories developed the prototype for countermeasure equipment. A Special IIC-ICIS-CIA Committee was established at the direction of the

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President to consider the security aspects in connection with the finding of this listening device. AEC advised on December 1, 1952, that an AEC facility could, in all probability, centralize the production of the countermeasure equipment.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

Special Agent Edward S. Sanders, the Chairman of the Special Committee, called a committee meeting on January 16, 1953, for the purpose of receiving a report from AEC study in connection with this matter and for the purpose of insisting that immediate measures be considered for the obtaining of this countermeasure equipment either through an AEC facility or other source.

Mr. Bryan La Plante advised the committee that he had returned from Los Alamos the previous evening where he had discussed this matter with the electronics experts. They advised LaPlante that the countermeasure equipment can be produced at the AEC facility at Los Alamos, but that in so doing research and production on atomic weapon projects must not be displaced, that they desire to produce only one batch of the equipment and that they must know the number of countermeasure equipment units desired before they can "quote a price."

b3 per CIA

Inasmuch as the representative from the Department of Defense stated he could not determine the number of units desired until the price is known, it was agreed that both the

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AEC facility and [redacted]
[redacted]

b3 per CIA

[Large redacted area]

RECOMMENDATION:

This matter is being followed closely by Special Agent Edward S. Sanders and recommendations will be made as soon as the additional information is received from the AEC facility [redacted] It is expected that this information will be received by January 26, 1953.

b3 per CIA

*I am sorry AEC
cant do it - W/S
D. B/S*