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DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 11652, Section 1

By JHC NLE, Date 8-11-76

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING

August 15, 1958

9:00 A. M. -- 10:50 A. M.

The following were present:

President Eisenhower

Executive Session

Vice President Nixon
Sec. McElroy
Atty Gen Rogers
PMG Summerfield
Sec. Seaton
Sec. Weeks
Sec. Mitchell
Sec. Flemming

Director Stans
(for Executive session only)
Gov. Hoegh
Gov. Adams



Regular Session

Under Sec. Herter, State
Under Sec. Scribner, Treasury
Under Sec. Morse, Agriculture
Deputy Sec. Quarles, Defense
Mr. Allen Dulles and Gen.
McClelland, CIA
Chrm. Doerfer, FCC
Mr. McCone, AEC
Mr. George Allen, USIA
Mr. Merriam, Budget
Dr. Saulnier, CEA

Gen. Quesada
Dr. Killian
Mr. Gordon Gray
Mr. Robert Gray
Gen. Goodpaster
Gov. Pyle
Mr. Morgan
Mr. Martin
Mr. Jack Anderson
Mrs. Wheaton
Mr. Patterson
Mr. Minnich

National Telecommunications Policy - Dr. Killian pointed up the heavy pressures on the telecommunications frequency spectrum that result from many new uses of the present age, such as railroad radio communications, taxicabs, ship-shore, etc. The President asked about the possibility of more precise usage so as to increase the number of usable frequencies. Dr. Killian thought it to be considerable. Mr. Gray saw this as the key point, especially since there is not presently an equally

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good means for determining spectrum utilization on the Government side and on the private side of this activity. He pointed out there would be serious dislocations and economic implications if any radical change were attempted overnight.

Chairman Doerfer added that commercial broadcasts were only a small fraction of the total but that even so, there would be a \$4 billion impact on the economy if 48 million television receivers were made obsolete. He said the spectrum is divided about evenly between Government and private use, that much equipment is marked by inflexibility, and that better use should be made of the now little used ultra high frequency spectrum. He confirmed his belief in the need for a long-range policy so as to end profligacy with this resource.

Mr. McElroy prefaced his remarks by explaining that Government use of frequencies is coordinated through OCDM and private use through the FCC. He pointed out that the Department of Defense relies mainly on commercial facilities within the United States, whereas it operates its own net overseas with some supplementation from commercial facilities. He stated DoD's concurrence in the desirability of appointing a commission to examine this field and make policy recommendations.

The President inquired as to whether telecommunications was a Defense integrated matter or a separate function with each of the Services. Mr. Quarles replied that the three services each had operations but that they were well coordinated with a continuing effort to improve coordination. The President thought that the pressure on frequencies might require completely integrated terminal facilities. Gordon Gray noted that DoD was not in itself represented on the Inter-agency Committee but that the three Services were.

Mr. Allen Dulles reported on the Soviet situation and achievements in this field, noting particularly their extensive radio facilities,

air defense networks, sophisticated and massive jamming potential which might make the United States completely dependent on cable facilities in an emergency.

5(B)(2)

Mr. Quesada stressed the importance of this matter to our national airways, particularly the volume of radar usage.

Gov. Hoegh cited the inadequacy of the OCDM telecommunications staff, which is concentrated on "clerical work" rather than on management policy. He recalled a request made to the Congress to authorize a thorough study, and he noted that it apparently would not be approved by the Congress. Mr. Gray added that S.J. Res. 106 had originally included the commercial side of the problem and that the Senate turned the matter aside when the Administration pressed for a study of all uses.

PORTIONS EXEMPTED
EO 11652, Sec. 5 (B) (2)
NSC LTR 4/25/77
NLE Date 5/20/77

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Mr. Gray then recommended that the Administration itself appoint a small committee to make a six months study, possibly under Gov. Hoegh, at the direction of the President. He forewarned that this could involve some terribly controversial decisions. He emphasized that the study should cover the entire field rather than just the Government aspects of it, including (1) how to achieve maximum utilization; (2) planning techniques; (3) reallocations; (4) potential future demands, and (5) necessary organizational changes. The President directed Gordon Gray, Gov. Hoegh, Mr. Stans and Gov. Adams to confer later with him as to the details of this. He expected the money for the study could be had by contributions from interested agencies who might also detail staff and support. While the President preferred a Congressional base for this study since it would provide subpoena power, he believed the Administration should move ahead prior to January 1, 1959. Mr. Gray believed this committee should not include any Government officials. He related an inquiry as to possible funding from the President's Emergency Fund. The President repeated his belief that it was important to figure out how to get this study going and to get to work on it.

Lunar Probe - The Vice President asked whether adequate public preparation had been made against the possible failure of the impending moon shot. Mr. McElroy emphasized what had been done about making known the small possibility of success but admitted that the press preferred to handle in terms of great expectations.

The President got from Mr. Quarles a brief explanation of the trajectory and duration of the lunar probe should it prove successful. He emphasized that the average speed would be much less than the velocity needed to escape from the atmosphere, hence would require two and a half days to reach the vicinity of the moon.

(The President, the Vice President, Mr. Hagerty, and a few others left the meeting at this point.)

* * *

Outer Space Briefing - Mr. Gordon Gray reported that approval had been given during the NSC meeting yesterday to a preliminary outer space policy. He noted that some of the introductory paragraphs of the paper incurred Budget's objections because they seemed to exaggerate the importance of outer space to the people of the United States. Subsequently, he re-emphasized this point as one worthy of much attention, particularly since the Russian Sputnik did capture the imagination of the world and completely transformed attitudes about the status of Soviet scientific achievement.

Mr. Gray noted that the paper did not attempt to cover US policies regarding ballistic missiles or the anti-missile missile. He noted some definitions as to what constituted space and how the United States had refrained from settling on any specific mileage to delimit sovereign air

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space. He then listed briefly some of the potential projects for exploration of outer space.

Mr. Gray stated that international cooperation was cited in the paper as highly desirable, to be accomplished through the UN, multilateral agreements, bilateral agreements, etc. Regarding military implications of this, there might be some cooperation with our allies but further consideration was necessary regarding security aspects.

Mr. Gray reported conclusive evidence that the Soviets are conducting a high priority outer space program. Dr. Killian commented that the Russian achievement in great rocket thrust would seem to make it impossible for us to catch up for at least a year or two.

There was a brief discussion as to the interests and activity of any of our allies in the light of reports that the Chinese Communists would engage in a space project. Dr. Killian reported that none of our allies were active.

Mr. Gray gave a status report on the new Space Agency and Space Council. He expected the latter to be similar to the NSC, though it would not meet so frequently. Dr. Killian added that the Space Agency would back up the military in certain aspects of research and development but that its primary purpose would be peaceful development.



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L. A. Minnich, Jr.

Copies to:

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