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C.O.S. (51)127

SPECIAL CIRCULATION

7TH MARCH, 1951

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

DECEPTION ORGANISATION IN THE <sup>E FAR</sup> MIDDLE EAST

Note by Mr. Drew

I have ascertained that the reasons for the changes proposed in SEACOS 166 are as follows:-

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- (a) This change has been made for reasons of security and convenience. There are already several officers in Singapore with the title of "Head", e.g. Head of SIFE, and the change to "Head of Forward Planning Section" fits smoothly into the existing framework.
  - (b) There are two points here. In the first place the Federation Police are sensitive to anything which to them smacks of control from Singapore, and they seem to fear that the original arrangement under which the Federation Officer would be responsible to the Cs-in-C Far East through the Forward Planning Officer\* in Singapore could be construed as implying control - which it was not designed to, at least in the sense which concerns them.

The other reason is of more importance. The Police Intelligence Organisation have not made the progress on penetrating the Communist organisation that they hoped they would when the original proposals were put up, and until they are in a better position to provide the Federation Officer with the channels that he must have, it is better that he should remain in Singapore and do what he can from there.

2. It is unfortunate that the covert Federation work, which seemed at the outset to promise early results, should be held up but in the circumstances I see no alternative to the proposed arrangement. There is fortunately no prospect of the officer concerned being unemployed. My information is that he is fully occupied in Singapore.

\* Now "Head of Forward Planning Section"

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I shall keep the situation under review and report again as developments require.

I recommend that the proposals made in the telegram under examination should be approved. I accordingly attach<sup>o</sup> a draft reply to the Commanders-in-Chief Far East.

(Signed) J.A. DREW

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, S.W.1.

7TH MARCH, 1951

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APPENDIX

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT TELEGRAM

FROM: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON.

TO: G. H. Q. FAR EAST LAND FORCES

COSSEA

For Commanders-in-Chief Far East from Chiefs of Staff

We concur in arrangements and changes of title  
given in your SEACOS 166 -6

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