

In carrying out your duties as Chairman of the Counter Subversion Committee you are required

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COUNTER SUBVERSION COMMITTEE

~~SECRET REVIEWED~~ TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Draft Directive to Chairman

- 1.) To be on the alert for, and to keep under review, threats and potential threats to British interests overseas from hostile, particularly (but not exclusively) Communist subversion (see Note below), especially when these concern the interests of more than one Department. The Committee would be aided in this by, inter alia, Intelligence assessments prepared in concert with the J.I.C.
- 2.) Where necessary, to suggest to the responsible Department the need for steps to combat such threats and to assist in the coordination of action between different Departments. Such steps could extend over a wide field, including open and unattributable information work, cultural and educational activities and technical aid, but not including matters of major political, military or economic policy with which the Committee would not be concerned.
- 3.) Where necessary, to delegate to ad hoc Working Groups the examination of particular threats either in geographical areas or special fields of activity and the recommendation of counter measures. The territorial Departments concerned of the Foreign Office, Commonwealth Relations Office and Colonial Office would, as appropriate, be brought into these groups and take the chair. Neither the Committee nor the Working Groups would be responsible for working out the concrete details of recommended counter measures.
- 4.) When necessary, to report or submit recommendations to the Official Committee on Defence and Oversea Policy and to carry out any tasks given to it by this Official Committee.

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5. To ensure that adequate attention is paid to the intention, scale, methods and effectiveness of Communist subversive activities when annual departmental estimates for expenditure on overseas activities are being drawn up.

N.B. "Subversion" in this context means -

"Activities other than major political, economic and military measures, intended to weaken or destroy pro-Western or independent elements or the sources of Western strength in any country with the object of gaining the support of that country for the policies of Communist or other hostile powers and eventually bringing it under their control."

October
September, 1963