MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions Reached at 16 March 1959 Meeting in Office of Mr. C. B. Bahan on Questions Raised by Admiral Alan G. Kirk

Present: C. B. Bahan
Admiral Alan G. Kirk
Allen W. Dulles
Francis H. Stevens
Wainwright E. Barbour
Robert F. Joyce
John A. Moore

The meeting was called at the request of Admiral Kirk, who wished to discuss a few questions concerning the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia. The following conclusions were reached:

I. Continuing efforts to add to the membership of the Committee of prominent persons will be intensified.

a. Special emphasis will be laid on adding members of such established wealth as to increase the plausibility of the Committee's engaging in its contemplated psychological warfare activities.

b. Mr. Dulles undertook to expedite the customary security clearance on these persons, by waiving normal security procedures after a routine name check has revealed nothing unfavorable.

II. The Committee will initiate projects the values of which from a research standpoint should enable it to obtain grants from one or more Foundations (Carnegie, Rockefeller, etc.). To the extent that Foundation funds are thus obtained, added plausibility will be given to Committee operations from a financial aspect.

III. A third source of funds, for the Committee's activities, will be developed through the Crusade for Freedom. This Crusade now
finances many of the activities of the National Committee for Free
Europe. No policy objection
was seen by the Crusade’s also financing Admiral Kirk’s Committee.
Mr. Kahler stated that he approved such use of the funds raised by
the Crusade.

a. Mr. Dulles stressed the need for examining whether the
Crusade can now contribute to the Committee, from the funds
raised by it in the 1983 campaign. That campaign may have been
so conducted that contributors might resent Crusade funds going
to the American Committee.

b. It was agreed that by any event, the Crusade should announce
as soon as possible that it has decided to accept funds for the
American Committee. Arrangements will be made with Crusade
officials to solicit funds during the 1983 campaign in such a
way as to enable it to turn over a portion of these funds to
the American Committee.

c. With regard to the need of explaining the Committee’s princi-
pies and purposes to interested persons inside and outside the several
branches of the Government, it was agreed that Admiral Kirk can and
should regard such explanation as one of his more important tasks.

d. There was general agreement that Admiral Kirk should go
slowly in the meetings with Russian and non-Russian emigres. Mr.
Kahler urged that the Admiral first interview the American spokes-
man for or supporters of these emigres. Mr. Stevens stressed that the
Admiral should, as far as possible, keep the emigres themselves at
arm’s length.

e. Although no conclusions were reached, there was considerable
discussion of the sort of suicide that will prevent the Committee’s
proposed radio program from becoming just another American radio in
Europe. Mr. Kahler said there are three views with regard to the
Political Center that the American Committee is trying to establish:
(a) the Center is a political impossibility; (b) it would be preferable
to organize an auspices on a purely cultural or individual basis—
rather than the group approach that it now being pursued; (c) a purely
Great Russian center would be relatively simple to establish and should
be set up for relative ease of operations.
Generally speaking, the consensus of the meeting was that something less than an ideal Center as originally conceived would be acceptable to the State Department, but the importance of a genuine Russian suspens for outweighs the value of the radio program as such: it is preferable to wait a month or so before broadcasting in order to obtain a valid suspens, than it is to start broadcasting as soon as possible under a sponsorship that is transparently thin.