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State Department Office of Policy Coordination Memorandum, 'Considerations in Choosing the Members and Executive Secretary for the Cinderella Cover Committee' [Declassified September 19, 2016]

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Summary:

An OPC official, drawing negative lessons from Free Europe Committee autonomy, argues that AMCOMLIB (cryptonym Cinderella) should be a pure front and not be allowed the autonomy gained by the FEC.

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English

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29 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Considerations in Choosing the Members and Executive Secretary for the Cinderella Cover Committee

1. The most vital element in the over-all project Cinderella is the Executive Secretary of the American cover committee. Upon his ability and his relationship with OPC will depend in large part the success of the operation. The experience gained in establishing and operating the NCFE has clearly demonstrated the importance of this individual. He is either the keystone which successfully binds whole operations together or he is a bottleneck and point of friction.

2. An analysis of the history of the NCFE shows that its Executive Secretary's semi-autonomous position as the representative of a semi-autonomous committee is one of the basic difficulties in the whole project and the cause of a great number of our worst headaches. OPC has not had adequate control of this key figure; such control is an absolute essential from an operational standpoint. In Cinderella there must be no question of whom he is working for. He must get his orders from OPC and his policy guidance from State through OPC.

3. The semi-autonomous cover committee is the other major difficulty connected with the NCFE which we wish to avoid this time. The NCFE is composed of a group of active, aggressive and ambitious individuals who insist on playing a much bigger role in the activities of the NCFE than was intended and who regard themselves as semi-autonomous from OPC. As a result the NCFE has unnecessarily had its already difficult activities complicated by its members' politics, struggle for influence, and interference with operational problems. We do not wish this to happen with the American cover committee for Cinderella which should be solely a front mechanism.

4. To avoid having a [illegible] committee, we believe it would be wise to select individuals who would be willing to act as a front but who would not try to do more than was asked of them. They should be distinguished, able, but not particularly ambitious. Older men such as Charles Seymour and Henry Wigen Griffin, who have retired after distinguished careers, would seem to be exactly the right type. Such men would ably perform any duties assigned them, but would not attempt to carry the ball on their own. [illegible]

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two additional qualifications which members of the committee should meet: (a) they should have either the means or connections necessary to lend credence to the committee's fund-raising front, and (b) their past activities and interests should be such that their connection with the committee appears reasonable.

5. In addition to the two individuals mentioned above, the following appear to be good possibilities:

Gordon Wasson

William Y. Elliot

William H. Chamberlain

Ernest Simmons

Norman Armour

Clinton Golden

Kaisinger

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