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17 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 15 April 1969

PRESENT: Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Helms

Colonel Alexander Haig and Mr. William Trueheart were present for all items.

Mr. William Broe was present for Item 1.

1. Final Report on March 1969 Chilean Congressional Election and Oral Briefing on Covert Action Operations in Latin America

a. Mr. Broe briefed the members on covert activities in the Latin American area. In the discussion of the final report on the successful limited Chilean congressional election operation of March 1969, the Chairman raised the question of whether anything should be done with regard to the presidential election in Chile in September 1970. He stated that in a recent conversation a friend of higher authority had urged higher authority to provide assistance to rightist Allesandri in the 1970 presidential election. The members conceded that Allesandri's prospects are reasonably good but decided no immediate steps are necessary since the presidential candidates are not yet formally declared.

b. Mr. Helms noted that when the candidates are declared an early decision should be taken on whether or not there is to be covert support to any candidate. He observed that a great deal of preliminary work is necessary, and CIA has learned through experience that an election operation will not be effective unless an early enough start is made.

c. Mr. Broe also briefed the Committee on covert support to a group of prominent Haitian exiles initially approved by the 303 Committee in July 1965. This group has formed a Haitian coalition comprised of anti-Duvalier Haitians primarily resident in the United States, Canada and the Bahamas. Until August 1968, the coalition broadcast regular anti-Duvalier Creole-language programs designed to offset the inflammatory propaganda broadcasts to Haiti from Radio Habana. Effectiveness of the programs has been indicated by the fact that they have been attacked by both Duvalier and Havana. Since August 1968 broadcasts have been irregular due to loss of the original facilities in New York and unsuccessful efforts to obtain effective alternate outlets. Efforts are continuing to locate suitable new

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facilities, and the success or failure of this effort will be reported to the Committee in the next few months. Total cost of support to the Haitian coalition has been \$135,000 annually with approximately \$90,000 of this going into the radio effort.

d. Mr. Broe mentioned a disclosure problem which might conceivably arise as the result of possible prosecution by the Department of Justice of two Haitians formerly affiliated with the coalition and four United States citizens for violation of certain U.S. laws in connection with their individual unauthorized participation in the abortive 20 May 1968 invasion of Haiti. He stated that CIA is in touch with Departments of State and Justice representatives on developments in this matter.

e. Mr. Broe referred to the fact that in December 1967 CIA advised the 303 Committee of its intention to terminate the broadcasting activities which had been directed against Cuba for many years over Radio Americas and to close down the radio site on Swan Island. At that time the 303 Committee endorsed in principle the need for CIA to continue nonofficial radio broadcasts aimed at the Cuban target.

f. The Swan Island site was closed in May 1968. Since then a new commercially covered production studio has been established to provide provocative programs on pressing political, social, economic and youth problems which are being met, or at least approached, through imaginative forward-moving solutions elsewhere in the hemisphere. These programs are aired through commercial broadcast facilities in Costa Rica, Caracas and Key West. They are not targeted directly at Cuba but are heard there. The objective is to stimulate a reassessment on the part of some receptive Cuban officials of the wisdom of Castro policies in the light of existing political realities. All broadcasts are in the Spanish language by non-Cuban latins. Little money has been spent so far as the project is just getting under way--\$250,000 is programmed for FY-1970.

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