

April 19, 1949

Memorandum of Conversation with Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10:00 am, Monday, 4 April 1949 [Approved for Release, March 2009]

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Summary:

Frank Wisner and Free Europe Committee (FEC) president DeWitt C. Poole brief FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover on the FEC project to secure his concurrence and assure him of coordination with the FBI on émigré contacts.

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19 April 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PILES

SUBJECT:

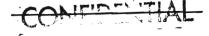
Memorandum of Conversation with Mr. J. Edger Hoover. Director, Federal Bureau of Imvestigation, 10:00 am. Monday, 4 April 1949

Prosent: Mr. P. G. Wisner Mr. Dewitt C. Pools Hr. J. Bigar Hoaver Hr. D. H. Ladd Hr. Richard W. Laurence

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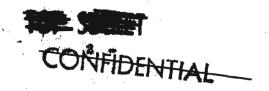
1. We Wisner englimed the background and general purposes of Mr. Pools than sketched the set-up proposed in Hew York. Mr. Pools said that what had been conveyed was offered not merely for Mr. Hower's information, but in order also to obtain his observations and advice-

- Mr. Hoover answered that Committee III in the How York organination (Committee on American Contacts) seemed to him to passess special importance. He had long contended that Communican could be effectively withstood only by advention,
- 3. As for the whole operation, Mr. Roover observed, success would depend upon the character and sotivity of the small group at the center which would really direct the operation. Mr. Roover was informed of progress so far in the recruitment of the Executive Committee.
- 4. Hr. Wisner had emphasized in his opening remarks that the operation obviously implained on the domain of PHI, but was still approprints to OPC because the effects sought to be produced would ensus outside the U. S. Mr. Hoever resummed to this as his second point.
- 5. The New York Committee, Mr. Hoover said, would be dealing with many characters on the American scene with whom FRI was already in touch and an whom FBI passessed information. It would be well that before working contacts were established with any new characters a check be made with PRI.
- 6. Mr. Poole expresed that the Committee would be not only ready, but amrious to have cooperation from FBI in this regard. FBI's information would be very helpful. Mr. Pools asked if contact could not be in New York, since it was desirable for this Committee to keep out of





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Washington as much as possible. Mr. Hoover answered year of course FMT's reservoir of information was in Mashington, but the New York Bureau could tap Washington and this would be arranged.

- 7. Mr. Fools them described in full detail the proposed organization and operation of the Foundation in New York, with reference pertioularly to the projected Linison Officer. He explained that no one was yet in view for this post, and asked FBI's help in obtaining a good man, and asserted that if Mr. Boover cared to place one of his can men in this position that would be welcome. Obviously, no Linison Officer could be of real use unless he commended the entire confidence of FBI, Mr. Poole added.
- 8. Mr. Beover agreed with this statement, but said there was no one of his own agents who could be spared for this purpose; FBI would give what help it could.
- 9. The meeting lasted meerly an hour. The etmosphere was cordial throughout.
- 10. During a briad subsequent obst in Mr. Ladd's office, Mr. Poole again urged the importance of finding the right sam for Linison Officer and saked Mr. Ladd to propose someone already known to him. Mr. Ladd said he would endeavor to do so.
- 11. It was arranged that soon after April 11 Mr. Poole would call on Mr. Schoolit, now at the head of PHI's New York Bureau.

MRR/dr

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