

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

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1251

TECHNICAL SUB-COM. ON NEWS DISTRIBUTION
JAN. 1945

5

605

Please see 3 & 4.

Ex 11/1/45.

PAY Bf for tomorrow's meeting

10/1/45.

Deemed 11 p.m.

520

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513
The CC has a copy.
Friday.
Recruitment meeting on
from 12:15 - 2:00 PM
for May 1978 as it was in
for May 1978 as it was in
Chick & Shell.
(4)

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(4)

Chief of Staff.

You may like to see a copy
of this. as it ties in to
some extent with the
Presidential meeting on
Friday.

Rickman.

Henry.

The CC has a copy.

513

(see M
SA [initials])

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON

9 JANUARY, 1945.

Present : Admiral Stone
Colonel Reeves
Colonel Henderson
Mr. Edman
Colonel Hayden
Colonel Scudder
Major Fielden.

Admiral Stone said he was puzzled by the attitude of the PWB towards ANSA. Did they want to create a monopoly?

Mr. Edman said that ANSA was only a monopoly in the sense of being a cooperative monopoly; it could not in fact be called a monopoly because it was jointly owned.

Admiral Stone said that he could not see how a private agency could set up business in requisitioned offices.

Mr. Edman said that ANSA would of course have to pay for office space.

Admiral Stone objected that ANSA was already, as far as he understood, using the PWB offices without payment.

Mr. Edman said that the PWB was ready to help any agency over the first difficult steps.

Admiral Stone asked who controlled the circuits.

Colonel Reeves said they were controlled by the Italian Government if derequisitioned.

Admiral Stone asked whether in fact it was the Government or the terminal companies.

Colonel Reeves was not sure.

Admiral Stone pointed out that military circuits could not be given to a private news agency.

Colonel Henderson said that PWB used military circuits : there

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Colonel Henderson said that PWB used military circuits : there **518** were no others.

Admiral Stone said that in that case circuits would have to be released for private agencies which would have to pay for them.

Colonel Henderson said that the release of PWB time - 3 to 4 hours per day - would not release whole circuits.

Admiral Stone asked how PWB time was taken.

Colonel Reeves said it had last priority.

Mr. Edman said that the circuits were used as a back-stop on their Morse transmissions.

Admiral Stone asked what PWB had in the way of radio facilities.

Mr. Edman said that they had shortwave, medium and long wave transmitters at Terranova. There were 5 transmitters, 3 being used for Italy, 1 for the Balkans and 1 for Moscow. The equipment was Italcable equipment much rehabilitated by PWB.

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Admiral Stone gave the Committee a summary of the discussions leading up to the Committee's appointment and read the terms of reference. He said that in spite of the warning against monopoly and the AC alteration of the PWB release as submitted, the original PWB release referring to ANSA had appeared in the Stars and Stripes.

Mr. Edman said that the PWB had had nothing to do with that release. He had never seen it until he read it in the Stars and Stripes.

Admiral Stone said he would not deal further with Rome for the moment. Our chief directives were (a) to settle distribution outside Rome, and (b) to avoid monopoly. PWB had elected to withdraw some of its activities from Liberated Italy: that was PWB's affair. But the new agency, ANSA, must not have a preferential position. The UP and other agencies would fight against that. PWB must permit all agencies, including other Italian agencies which might arise, to compete on an equal footing. The Committee would have to study time requirements as well as financial requirements in conjunction with the Italian Government or the terminal companies. He thought there were already certain facilities for provincial papers: the possibilities of long-distance telephone must be explored. As to radio facilities, if PWB was not going to carry news some facilities must be restored to the agencies but not as a free gift.

Mr. Edman said that ANSA should be treated as any other agency. He understood that Reuters and AP would have their own men sitting in ANSA.

Admiral Stone said he believed that Italcable had operated a number of high-speed circuits before the war and some of these might be restored.

Colonel Reeves said he did not understand ANSA's connection with Italcable. All Italcable property was requisitioned by him for military use and could not be given over to private enterprise.

Admiral Stone asked if ANSA personnel were not already there.

Mr. Edman said that some were there; some were on PWB's payroll.

Colonel Reeves said that all space there had been authorized by him and unauthorized persons could not be permitted. He thought Italcable themselves wanted the premises back.

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Admiral Stone said that UP would make a terrific blast if there were any question of monopoly by ANSA. We should see that Italy's cable was open to all and there should be no preferential rates. He asked whether PWB would be taking ANSA's news to the North and if in that case Southern papers could not pick up PWB's transmissions.

Mr. Edman said he thought Southern papers would have to carry a tag-line but of course they might pirate.

Admiral Stone said he began to wonder whether there was really any distinction between PWB and ANSA.

Mr. Edman said that he did not see how piracy could be prevented.

Admiral Stone asked if PWB would recommend the Italian Government to prosecute it.

Mr. Edman assented.

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Admiral Stone said that he thought an address system might be possible, Italcable acting as a common carrier. The Italian Government could then prosecute in Italian territory and AC in AC territory. He did not know what possibilities there were of wire services.

Colonel Henderson said that telegraph services were picking up. He thought that perhaps the best plan would be to restore Italcable's services as far as possible. He would go into the matter with Colonel Reeves.

Admiral Stone asked if newspapers in the South still had a lot of PWB equipment.

Mr. Edman said no; but in any case it would not be given away to them; they would have to pay. He thought PWB still had receivers in Catanzaro and Cosenza.

Colonel Henderson said that a common carrier would only serve the major towns, except for radio. He wondered whether it should be Italcable or the State.

Admiral Stone said it was a question not only of politics but also of efficiency. He had an open mind on it. On the whole he thought there were more objections to State control.

Colonel Reeves said that he doubted whether there would be spare circuits for lease to Italcable.

Admiral Stone said that the important point was that Italcable should be a common carrier serving ANSA, UP or any other agency equally.

If there were only one wire it would have to be split up, as had been done at Algiers. There was always the additional possibility of telephoning news.

Colonel Reeves remarked that many partially destroyed transmitters had been rebuilt with Allied material and it would be a tough problem to unscramble that. Most Italcable employees were now paid by PWB.

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