Reference is made to Mr. Belmont’s memo to Mr. Ladd dated 2-13-53 reporting a request from the White House as to whether the Bureau is equipped to make a security survey of the White House for the detection of microphones including the so-called “cavity” type.

When the question of procuring the necessary equipment to make such a security survey was considered on 12-3-52, the purchase was unfavorably considered because of shortage of funds, as reflected by my memo of 12-2-52 and Executive Conference memo dated 12-3-52. In view of the pending White House inquiry, it is suggested that the Bureau may wish to consider a purchase of the necessary equipment at this time. One set of the necessary equipment will cost approximately $1200. A portion of this equipment is immediately available from New York without priority. However, the Boston office has advised that the earliest possible delivery on the remaining equipment will require 2 weeks if National Production Authority directive is obtained. Without priority delivery will be June or July. In order to secure the 2 weeks delivery, the order must be placed by Wednesday, 2-18-53.

ACTION:

In the event the Bureau desires to purchase at least one set of the necessary equipment (this would provide no spares in the event of failure) the Chief Clerk’s office should arrange immediately to secure the necessary priority from the National Production Authority in order that delivery may be obtained within reasonable time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the purchase of one set of oscillators necessary to make the searches for cavity-type microphones at a cost of approximately $1200 be approved.

ADDENDUM:

Mr. Ladd agrees; 2’DEPT PLANT/