

Chronology

1945

- 12 April President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies in Warm Springs, Georgia; Vice President Harry S. Truman takes the oath of office as President.
- 8 May Germany surrenders.
- 17 July The Potsdam Conference of the leaders of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union convenes to discuss peace terms and the fate of Germany.
- 6 August Atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.
- 14 August Japan accepts Allied peace terms.
- 2 September World War II ends as Japan formally surrenders.
- 20 September Executive Order 9621 dissolves OSS, effective 1 October. The Research and Analysis Branch is transferred to the Department of State; the espionage and counterintelligence branches become the Strategic Services Unit under the War Department.

1946

- 22 January President Truman creates the Central Intelligence Group and appoints RAdm. Sidney Souers the first Director of Central Intelligence.
- 15 February CIG's first *Daily Summary* is delivered to the President.
- 2 March Kingman Douglass becomes the first Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.
- 5 March Winston Churchill delivers his "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, MO.
- May A three-year civil war breaks out in Greece; the Soviet Union supports Communist guerrillas there through Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.
- 10 June Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, US Army Air Forces, is sworn in as the second Director of Central Intelligence.
- 11 July The Office of Special Operations is constituted under Donald Galloway as the first Assistant Director for Special Operations. Schedules are drawn up for merging SSU into CIG.

- 17 July DCI Vandenberg argues for an independent budget for CIG at a meeting of the National Intelligence Authority; the Authority agrees to help him get one.
- 19 July The Office of Research and Evaluation (renamed Reports and Estimates in November 1946) begins operations.
- 23 July ORE 1 analyzes Soviet foreign and military policy for President Truman.
- 28 July CIG formally takes control of the FBI's Latin American operations.
- 15 September Communist-dominated Bulgaria is proclaimed a people's republic.
- 20 October SSU field personnel are transferred to the CIG's Office of Special Operations (OSO).
- 5 November Congressional elections result in firm Republican majorities in both Houses.
- 19 November Romanian voters endorse the Communist-dominated government after a campaign of violence against the non-Communist opposition.
- 1947**
- 19 January Polish Communists win a huge parliamentary majority in elections that the United Kingdom and the United States declare to be in violation of the Yalta agreement.
- 20 January Col. Edwin K. Wright replaces Kingman Douglass as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.
- 12 March In a message to Congress, President Truman announces the Truman Doctrine of aid to nations threatened by Communism.
- 11 April SSU headquarters personnel are transferred to OSO.
- 1 May RAdm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter is sworn in as the third Director of Central Intelligence.
- 30 May A Communist-led coup renders Hungary a Soviet satellite.
- 5 June Secretary of State Marshall, speaking at Harvard, calls for a European Recovery Program, soon dubbed the Marshall Plan.
- 7 July Moscow rejects the Marshall Plan.

- 26 July President Truman signs the National Security Act of 1947, which provides for a National Security Council, Secretary of Defense, and Central Intelligence Agency.
- 18 September The Central Intelligence Group becomes the Central Intelligence Agency under the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947.
- 5 October The Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) holds its founding meeting in Belgrade.
- 15 December DCI Hillenkoetter submits a draft of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to the Bureau of the Budget.
- 17 December In NSC 4-A, the National Security Council authorizes CIA to conduct covert “psychological warfare.”
- 1948**
- 12 February National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) 7 authorizes CIA to collect foreign intelligence from American citizens with overseas contacts.
- 25 February A Soviet-led coup in Czechoslovakia destroys that country’s remaining anti-Communist leadership; concern mounts in Washington that the Communists might make big gains in the forthcoming Italian elections.
- March Congress approves the Marshall Plan.
- 9 April Rioting outside the Organization of American States meeting in Bogota, Colombia, endangers Secretary of State Marshall, prompting criticism of CIA in Washington.
- 18 April Italy’s new Christian Democratic Party wins a sweeping victory in national elections.
- 1 May The Soviet Union defies the United Nations and establishes a people’s republic in North Korea.
- 14 May Israel becomes an independent state.
- 18 June NSC 10/2 (which rescinds NSC 4-A) expands CIA’s authority to conduct covert action and gives a supervisory role to the Departments of State and Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- 19 June Congress reinstates the draft.

- 24 June Berlin blockade; Soviet authorities cut electricity and halt all land and water traffic into West Berlin. The Berlin airlift begins.
- 28 June The Soviet-controlled Cominform denounces Tito and expels Yugoslavia.
- 1 September The Office of Policy Coordination, CIA, formally begins operations under Frank Wisner.
- 2 November President Truman wins a stunning reelection victory over Governor Thomas Dewey of New York, and Democrats regain majority control of both Houses of Congress.
- 1949**
- January Allen Dulles, William Jackson, and Matthias Correa submit their survey of CIA to the National Security Council; the report criticizes DCI Hillenkoetter.
- 22 January Beijing, the capital of China, falls to the Communists.
- 4 April The North Atlantic Treaty is signed.
- 12 May The Soviets tacitly concede defeat and officially lift the Berlin blockade.
- 20 June President Truman signs the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, which specifies the powers and authority of the Director of Central Intelligence.
- 29 June US occupation forces complete their withdrawal from South Korea.
- 7 July The National Security Council approves NSC 50, which directs DCI Hillenkoetter to make significant reforms in CIA as outlined in the Dulles-Jackson-Correa report.
- 21 July The Senate ratifies the North Atlantic Treaty, creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- 5 August The United States halts aid to China's Nationalist government.
- 10 August President Truman signs a bill creating the Department of Defense and expanding the powers of the Secretary of Defense.
- 23 September President Truman announces that the Soviet Union has successfully tested an atomic bomb.
- 1 October The People's Republic of China is proclaimed in Beijing.

- 8 December Chinese Nationalist government is established on Taiwan.
- 1950**
- 31 January President Truman authorizes development of a hydrogen bomb.
- 14 April President Truman submits the draft of NSC 68 (prepared under the supervision of the Secretaries of State and Defense) to the National Security Council and other departments for comments and estimates of its potential cost. The draft advocates a large military buildup and a political and ideological counteroffensive against the Soviet Union.
- 19 April State Department officials advise OPC to draft new and more ambitious plans in expectation of formal approval of NSC 68.
- 15 May A reorganization of the Office of Policy Coordination consolidates its sections into geographic-area divisions, laying the foundation for the future structure of the Directorate of Plans.
- 25 June Communist North Korea invades South Korea; American forces engage two days later.
- 5 August UN forces in South Korea are penned within the Pusan perimeter.
- 15 September General MacArthur's landing at Inchon shocks the North Korean Army; UN forces break out of Pusan and begin racing toward the Chinese border.
- 7 October Lt. Gen. Walter B. Smith is sworn in as the fourth Director of Central Intelligence. William H. Jackson becomes Deputy Director for Central Intelligence.
- 13 November The Office of Reports and Estimates is dissolved and superseded by three new offices: the Office of Research and Reports, the Office of Current Intelligence, and the Office of National Estimates.
- 26 November In a large-scale intervention, Communist Chinese forces strike the flank of MacArthur's advance into North Korea. MacArthur is forced to retreat.
- 16 December Korean war setbacks prompt President Truman to proclaim a state of national emergency, which places CIA and other agencies on a six-day workweek.

1951

- 4 January Allen Dulles assumes the new post of Deputy Director for Plans.
- 15 January The Office of Current Intelligence begins operations, publishing its all-source *Current Intelligence Bulletin*.
- 25 January Communist forces led by Chinese troops reach their farthest southern advance since their counteroffensive began in November. Allied forces begin to push them slowly northward.
- 11 April President Truman relieves General MacArthur as commander of US forces in Korea.
- 29 April Premier Mohammed Mossadeq nationalizes Iran's oil industry.
- 8 May DCI Smith asks the NSC for a ruling on the scope and pace of CIA covert operations.
- 25 May British Secret Intelligence Service officers and suspected spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean flee Great Britain to defect to the Soviet Union.
- June Korean truce talks open. The battlefield stabilizes and there is little change in the frontline until the end of the war.
- 23 June The Soviet Union's Ambassador to the United Nations tables a Korean cease-fire proposal. Negotiations begin at Kaesong soon afterward but proceed at a snail's pace and finally break down altogether in August.
- 1 July DCI Walter Bedell Smith is promoted to General, US Army.
- 23 August Allen Dulles succeeds William Jackson as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence; Frank Wisner is promoted to Deputy Director for Plans.
- 23 October NSC 10/5 expands CIA's authority to conduct covert action.
- 12 November New cease-fire talks begin at Panmunjon, Korea, after a series of UN attacks.

1952

- 1 January Loftus Becker becomes the first Deputy Director for Intelligence.
- 1 August OPC and OSO are merged under Deputy Director for Plans Frank Wisner.
- 24 September Iran rejects Anglo-American oil settlement.

- October The stalled armistice talks at Panmunjon break off as the Communists await the results of the American elections.
- 1 November The United States successfully tests its first H-bomb.
- 4 November Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower defeats Democrat Adlai Stevenson to win election as President of the United States.
- 21 November President Truman says farewell to CIA in a speech to the Agency's employees.

1953

- 20 January Harry Truman leaves office as President of the United States.
- 9 February Walter Bedell Smith resigns as DCI and retires from the US Army to become Under Secretary of State in the Eisenhower administration.