

Sources and Declassification

This third volume in CIA's Cold War Records series provides an overview of the Agency's early development by presenting some key documents—especially those that received the President's personal attention—that guided its formation and work during the Truman administration. In selecting CIA-related documents from the Truman years, we have sought to balance considerations of novelty, space, and relevance. In recent years CIA has declassified many of its early records. Although a few of this volume's early documents have been published in other works, most of its previously declassified documents were either released to individual researchers under Freedom of Information Act requests or transferred without publication to the National Archives under the auspices of the Agency's Historical Review Program. The newly declassified records are variegated, although most of them were created within CIA, usually for internal distribution. They range from memorandums for the record summarizing senior officials' policy debates to working-level reports and communications; the former show how the CIA supported the Truman administration's foreign policies, while the latter offer insight into the Agency's day-to-day workings.

We should add that since 1985 the CIA History Staff has actively helped the Historian's Office of the Department of State compile two supplementary volumes on "Intelligence and United States Foreign Policy, 1945–1950" for the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series. These two volumes (one a microfiche companion volume) will include almost 1,300 documents from State, CIA, the NSC, and elsewhere, which were still classified when the *Foreign Relations* volumes for this immediate post-war period were published some years ago. These forthcoming supplementary *Foreign Relations* volumes, which the Department of State expects to publish within the next year, will include about 20 documents—mainly from the 1945-47 period—that we reproduce in this present work.

Are there any surprises in this volume's newly declassified records? Some, perhaps, although most of them will no doubt confirm long-held views of the Agency's early years, such as its turf wars, its drift under Admiral Hillenkoetter, its resurgence under Walter Bedell Smith, and the anti-Communist activism of Frank Wisner's Office of Policy Coordination. Some documents also add to the relatively scarce evidence on such developments as the OSO-OPC rivalry, the policy guidance CIA got for covert operations, and the voracious White House appetite for CIA intelligence analyses of all sorts.

The documents have been organized in three generally chronological sections. Part I, covering the two years between the dissolution of the wartime Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in October 1945 to the establishment of the Central Intelligence Agency in September 1947, shows the bureaucratic and policy debates surrounding the birth and growth of the interdepartmental Central Intelligence Group (CIG). These early documents, most of which have been declassified for some time, help explain how CIG developed into the new statutory CIA. Part II, covering the three years from CIA's September 1947 founding to General Smith's arrival as DCI in October 1950, chronicles Hillenkoetter's rudderless Agency and Frank Wisner's activist OPC and describes the early analysis that CIA provided to the White House. Part III, from mid-1950 to the end of 1952, focuses on new forms of intelligence analysis and covert action while detailing the genesis and consequences of DCI Smith's reforms.

This volume also includes a glossary of abbreviations, brief identifications of persons mentioned in the documents, and a chronology of events in the almost eight years of President Truman's administration. A few of the newly declassified documents have had some words or passages deleted to protect intelligence sources and methods—in bureaucratic jargon, they have been "sanitized." Limitations in space have led us to print other documents (clearly noted as excerpts) only in part. In shortening documents for publication, we have tried to excise only such sections as appendixes that are not essential to understanding the thrust of the document. In any event, these newly declassified records, including those portions omitted for space reasons in this volume, will be transferred to the National Archives and opened for research.

The documents we have reproduced in this volume vary greatly in their physical condition. Some are typed or printed originals, but others we have found only in faint carbon, Mimeograph, or Ditto copies of the time, or in Thermofax or photocopies made later on.⁷¹ When we have been unable to find a signed original copy, we have searched for a clean, contemporary carbon, or a typed true copy—a common practice in those pre-photocopy days. Sometimes, however, we have only a poor copy to work with, and its reproduction in this volume is barely legible. For a few documents, for want of the original in any form, we have reproduced a typed transcription prepared in the early 1950s for Dr. Arthur B. Darling, the CIA's first historian. When we reproduce a document that is not a signed original, the caption at its head will describe the nature of the copy we have used.

⁷¹ Mimeograph, Ditto, and Thermofax are registered trade marks.