

18 June 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James S. Lay, Jr.
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT : World Book Encyclopedia Item on CIA

1. Attached find a revision of the text supplied with changes indicated by dotted underlines.
2. There is also attached a copy of the standard form of blurb that we supply to directories, encyclopedias, etc.
3. I suggest that you forward both to the World Book Encyclopedia stating that we approve publication of either, prefer Tab B but recognize that it is probably expressed in too legalistic language for their purposes.



ROBERT AMORY, Jr.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is an important agency under the direction of the National Security Council. It is the central source of all secret information which government agencies need in planning for the security of the United States. This vital information, called intelligence, is obtained through agents from every source and country in the world. It includes such things as the military plans of an enemy country, the number of planes and ships that country has available, and the size of its fighting force.

Much of the activity of the CIA is secret and carried out by undercover agents, or spies. A skilled research staff studies the information and sends it to the proper government agencies. Moreover, the Director of Central Intelligence, assisted by a committee of the heads of the military and State Department intelligence organizations, pulls together all foreign intelligence collected by diplomats and military attaches into "National Estimates" which are the basis for US policy-making. The CIA was established in 1947.

See also Intelligence Service.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Central Intelligence Agency was established under the National Security Council by the National Security Act of 1947, approved July 26, 1947. The Director and Deputy Director are appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. When the first Director took office, the National Intelligence Authority ceased to exist.

PURPOSE.—For the purpose of coordinating the intelligence activities of the several Government departments and agencies in the interest of national security, the Agency, under the direction of the National Security Council:

1. Advises the National Security Council in matters concerning such intelligence activities of the Government department and agencies as relate to national security.
2. Makes recommendations to the National Security Council for the coordination of such intelligence activities of the departments and agencies of the Government as relate to the national security.
3. Correlates and evaluates intelligence relating to the national security, and provides for the appropriate dissemination of such intelligence within the Government using, where appropriate, existing agencies and facilities.
4. Performs, for the benefit of the existing intelligence agencies such additional services of common concern as the National Security Council determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally.
5. Performs such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct.

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SECRET