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Executive Registry  
9-5463

JUL 24 1957

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State**

**SUBJECT: Disposition of U.S. Copies of Captured German Records**

1. I desire to draw attention to a series of considerations concerning the release to the U.S. public domain of microfilm copies of portions of captured German Foreign Office documents presently held by the Department of State. Under existing tripartite agreements among the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Federal Republic of Germany, the originals of these materials are being returned to the Bonn Government, and the latter has engaged to grant German and foreign scholars access to the files at all times.

2. It is my understanding that the microfilm copies which were made for U.S. use and custody will be transferred to the National Archives where they will be freely available for public examination. A portion of early German Foreign Office materials, primarily dealing with the Weimar period, has already been transferred to the U.S. Archives. Some 500 other microfilm containers are now pending transfer.

3. In pursuit of its national counterintelligence responsibility, this Agency began a systematic examination of these records in January 1957. As of 30 May 1957, some 300 containers had been reviewed. Included were 50 containers selected from the lot of 500 containers pending transfer. This examination was made possible and facilitated by the courtesy and cooperation of the Historical Office of the State Department.

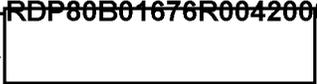
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4. The review has produced a large quantity of information of a sensitive counterintelligence nature derived largely from German intelligence and counterintelligence reports, dispatches and telegrams dealing with American, British, Russian, German and other Intelligence Services, their personnel and their operations.

5. For example:

[redacted] deals with Soviet espionage activity [redacted]. Personality information contained therein is of current operational interest, and a review has been initiated by this Agency.

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[redacted] contain numerous references [redacted]. These materials also contain details of current counterintelligence operational interest.

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[redacted] deals with Communist activity and agents in the Spanish Civil War. In a number of instances the information on these personalities is relevant to their present activity.

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[redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] is concerned minutely with the identities of German Military Intelligence personnel stationed throughout the world. In a number of cases,

[redacted]

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[redacted] contains the names of Allied intelligence personnel in

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] identifies a member of the [Redacted] diplomatic mission in [Redacted] in 1944 as an alleged paymaster of a local communist group. A file check indicates the presumed identity of the person named in the German intelligence report with an individual who in 1956 was still a member of the [Redacted] diplomatic service abroad.

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[Redacted] is a detailed report concerning Soviet espionage networks operating [Redacted] in 1942.

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[Redacted] concern in detail a German intelligence penetration of the U. S. diplomatic installations [Redacted] from 1939 to 1942. Unevaluated information of a personal and scandalous nature is alleged regarding a former American minister [Redacted]. The German operation had a broad scope apparently extending from [Redacted]. As far as is known, no U. S. counterintelligence investigative effort has ever been made on the basis of this documentation.

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6. These examples are selected at random from the containers which have been screened by this Agency. The counterintelligence content speaks for itself. It seems to me that NSCID-12 clearly applies to certain of these materials and bars their release to the public under current U.S. policy. However, it is my considered view that the national counterintelligence interest requires that all of the German Foreign Office material now pending transfer to the National Archives should be carefully screened, and that documents of a counterintelligence interest to the United States or its allies be removed before the microfilm copies are deposited.

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7. In the course of the systematic review of counterintelligence material which has been under way, procedures have been formalized in order to assure that all data become a part of the permanent registry of this Agency which is maintained as a matter of common concern for the U.S. intelligence community. Where applicable, materials affecting the domestic counterintelligence authorities have been brought to the attention of these authorities. Similarly, where the security interests of our allies are concerned, the appropriate action has been taken to bring the information to their attention. In particular, [redacted]

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Specifically, they have asked this Agency to bring to the attention of the Department of State the following items which should be so treated:

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[redacted]

8. I welcome your views and comments on this matter, and desire to reaffirm this Agency's willingness to provide every assistance possible.

Signed

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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Prepared by: *WCC*  
C/CI/  
16 July 1957

Distribution:

- O&I - Addressee
- 1 - Signer
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SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:

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CONCUR: 4

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