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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General Wilton B. Persons
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from Ralph W. Powers of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association

1. Attached hereto is a draft reply which you may find helpful in answering Mr. Ralph W. Powers, whose recent memorandum to the President you submitted for my comment. Mr. Powers recommends a study be undertaken of the "adequacy and competency of the military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence organizations of the U. S."

2. For the information of the President and yourself only, and in order that you may have confidence in what has been stated in this draft letter, I would like to review steps taken specifically in regard to the questions raised by Mr. Powers:

a. "The extent to which the military and civilian intelligence and counter intelligence organizations of the U.S. are meeting the important responsibilities which have been assigned to them."

Our most current formal report on this subject, as of 31 December 1952, is contained in the section of the progress report on NSC-135 devoted to the Foreign Intelligence Program. A copy of this report is attached; it substantially reflects the situation as of today.

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b. "The extent to which these organizations are ready to meet greater responsibilities which would devolve on them in the event of war."

The intelligence organizations of the military services have M-day plans for this contingency. The role of CIA in all-out war is defined in NSCID-5. Operations for use in the event of war are established and receiving constant attention. There is continuing planning with the JCS for this emergency.

c. "The extent to which these organizations are coordinating their work and performing it efficiently and with a minimum of unnecessary duplication and expense."

With regard to coordination of counter-intelligence, (a) the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (a subcommittee of the NSC) is the mechanism under direction of the FBI which coordinates counter-intelligence in respect of internal security and (b) CIA under NSCID-5 has the responsibility for the conduct and coordination, including with the military services, of counter-intelligence in the foreign field. There is continuing coordination and broad exchange of information with the FBI to correlate the internal and foreign aspects of Counter Intelligence.

Pursuing the policies established by the NSCID's CIA and other members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee are achieving coordination of production, collection, and exploitation of intelligence. The IAC, and nine subordinate interagency committees for specialized aspects of intelligence, provide mechanisms for the coordination of both intelligence activities and intelligence opinion. An illustration is the current development of a central register for source control which will provide a coordinating device for clandestine foreign sources.

d. "The extent to which unification of these organizations may be feasible."

NSCID No. 3, in extension of the National Act, recognizes the desirability of preserving departmental intelligence. In some specific cases (foreign wireless and radio monitoring, domestic exploitation, scientific biographic intelligence), centralized effort has proven desirable and possible. The

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military services, through the establishment of the JIC, have provided for coordination of military intelligence activities.

3. While our intelligence organizations and their product are something less than perfect, the Chiefs of intelligence and I are working closely and effectively together and toward providing the maximum benefit from the expenditures of this government in this field. I recommend that a survey not be undertaken at this time, particularly since the recommendations of NSC-50 (which were based on such a survey in 1948) have been largely accomplished.

4. This matter has been discussed with the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, and he concurs in the proposed reply.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

Enclosure

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DRAFT

Ralph W. Powers, Esquire
Chairman, National Policy Committee
National CIC Association
Hyattsville, Maryland

Dear Mr. Powers:

Your recent memorandum proposing that this government undertake a survey of the military and civilian counter-intelligence activities and positive intelligence activities of this government is appreciated. The continued interest of the alumni of such activities in World War II is reason for a sense of satisfaction on the part of the government.

With regard to your proposal it is believed that there already exists, under the National Security Act of 1947 and through directives which have been approved by the National Security Council and the President in implementation thereof, the means for insuring your very worthwhile objectives. Under the Act and the NSC directives the Director of Central Intelligence is responsible for recommending to the National Security Council and the President with regard to the arrangements necessary within the government for the effective coordination of foreign counter-intelligence and positive intelligence activities, including those of which you speak. With regard to internal counter-intelligence, CIA and the FBI work closely in assuring that the responsibilities assigned to the latter are coordinated with foreign

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counter-intelligence activities.

While it would be improper for me to indicate specifically the achievements of the last several years in this regard, you may rest assured that there have been decided improvements. The Director of Central Intelligence and his colleagues in the other counter-intelligence and intelligence agencies are concerting their efforts. Outside experts have been drawn in from time to time to advise on specific problems in these fields.

Because of the particular interest your paper will have to them, I have referred it to the Director of Central Intelligence and the heads of the several counter-intelligence and intelligence agencies. Both your memorandum and its attached study will be given thoughtful attention as we seek to improve our machinery for counter-intelligence and positive intelligence.

Thank you for your communication. Would you be good enough to convey our appreciation to the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association.

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16 June
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