

TOP SECRET

25 February 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Conversation with Admiral Souers.

*File*

1. Pursuant to an invitation extended to me by Admiral Souers by telephone this morning, I called upon him at his office in the Old State Department Building at eleven A.M. today. At the time of extending his invitation, Admiral Souers did not specify the subjects which he wished to discuss but said that he was anxious to talk to me because we had not had a conversation for such a long period of time. I hope that I was correct in my assumption that you would have no objection to my responding to this invitation from Admiral Souers.

2. I am submitting this memorandum to you in order that you may be informed about the conversation and because I believe that you may be interested in certain of the highlights of the discussion.

3. At the outset of the conversation Admiral Souers stated that he had felt somewhat remiss in not following more closely the activities of OPC and he said that he wanted to catch up on this and find out how I was making out. He asked me whether I felt that I was receiving the appropriate amount of guidance and assistance from the Department of State and the National Military Establishment. I replied that the Department of State had shown great and continuing interest in the activities of OPC and that whereas I felt that our relationship with the NME could be improved as the result of better coordination among the three component elements, I had no complaint to offer on this score. Admiral Souers expressed the conviction that OPC should be regarded by the State Department and the NME as an important instrumentality for carrying out their foreign policy and military objectives; and he said that he had recently spoken in this sense with Messrs. Forrestal and Webb.

4. Admiral Souers then inquired as to how we are progressing with our organization and plans and what operations we have embarked upon. I described our progress in brief general terms, commenting upon the fact that we have undertaken certain fairly large scale operations in France and Italy which are beginning to show dividends.



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8. In connection with Admiral Souers' reference to the conversation with Mr. Lovett, he mentioned the Dulles-Jackson-Correa report which is before the NSC for consideration, and he commented at some length upon the many and serious difficulties which are involved in the task of coordinating the national intelligence effort. He said that any coordinator's job is a thankless one and that this applies with particular emphasis in the field of intelligence. He said, for example, that it is the position of the Navy that the Director of Central Intelligence should be dictated to by a board of directors comprised of the members of the IAC. In his own view, this position is contrary to the statutory authority and responsibility of the Director. According to Admiral Souers, it is General Donovan's view that the Director of CIA should be responsible only to the President and that he should be empowered to enforce coordination upon the heads of the services' (and other) intelligence agencies. Admiral Souers raised and we discussed briefly a number of additional points in connection with this subject, the details of which I am not including in this memorandum but which I shall be glad to discuss with you if you so desire.



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FRANK G. WISNER  
Assistant Director for  
Policy Coordination

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