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24 February 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Plans

FROM: ADSO

SUBJECT: Draft of Directive on Psychological Warfare

A. Reference paragraph 2. In the statement of responsibilities of the Psychological Strategy Board there is no reference to planning as such. However, the "formulation of over-all and strategic psychological warfare objectives" would not be possible without planning. It is suggested that the phrasing of this paragraph be reconsidered with a view to including appropriate emphasis on plans.

B. Reference paragraphs 2 and 3. It is suggested that the responsibility as delineated between the Psychological Strategy Board and the Secretary of State is confused as to wording. Responsibility for coordination is given both to the Board and to the Secretary of State. It is felt that this responsibility should be placed on one agency and that that agency should be the Board, using the State Department as the means to secure that coordination.

It is suggested that these paragraphs be reworded to clearly establish responsibility for coordination.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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Attachment:
Draft of Directive.

Assistant Director

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February 19, 1951

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#1, only

To: Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Director of Central Intelligence

It is my desire, and I hereby direct, that there be developed and implemented, within the framework of approved national policies, a vigorous and imaginative psychological warfare effort.

There is established under the National Security Council a Psychological Strategy Board responsible, within the purposes and terms of this directive, at the national level for the formulation of over-all and strategic psychological warfare objectives, policies, and programs, and for the coordination and evaluation of the various components of the national psychological warfare effort, including authority to issue policy guidance to all departments and agencies of the Government executing portions of the psychological warfare effort. For the purpose of this directive, psychological warfare shall not include overt types of economic warfare.

The Secretary of State shall continue to be responsible for the coordination of the operational planning and execution of national overt psychological warfare activities and for insuring that such activities are consistent with U. S. foreign policy.

The Secretary of State is directed to examine into the organization established under NSC 59/1 and is authorized to effect such readjustments in that organization as he deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this directive.

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The Board shall be composed of:

- a. a full-time chairman, designated by me.
- b. the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence, or, in their absence, their appropriate designees;
- c. an appropriate representative of the head of each such other department or agency of the Government as may from time to time be determined by the Board.

A representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall sit with the Board as its principal military adviser to ensure that the programs formulated by the Board are consistent with and complementary to approved plans for military operations.

The Chairman will give leadership to and organize the business of the Board. He will take the initiative in bringing matters before it, in expediting the reaching of decisions, in promulgating its guidance and in ascertaining the manner in which agreed upon objectives, policies, and programs are being carried out. In the event of an inability of the Board expeditiously to come to a decision on a matter before it as a result of a substantial divergence of views, the Chairman, prior to any report to the National Security Council, shall consult with the heads of the departments and agencies concerned in an effort to resolve the issue.

The Chairman of the Board, subject to the direction of the National Security Council, may organize and direct a staff of individuals,

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including part-time experts, detailed, on his request, from the participating departments and agencies. Such personnel when assigned to duties under the terms of this directive shall be under the control of the Chairman, subject only to necessary personnel procedures within each department and agency. Insofar as practicable, staff work for the Board shall be provided within the agencies concerned or on an ad hoc task force basis.

The participating departments and agencies shall afford to such staff as the Chairman specifically designates, full access to whatever information they may require to carry out their assigned duties.

The Central Intelligence Agency shall provide such funds, space and other administrative services necessary for the pay and support of this staff as the National Security Council may direct.

The Chairman will report periodically to the National Security Council on the Board's activities and on its evaluation of the National psychological warfare effort, including implementation of approved objectives, policies, and programs by the departments and agencies concerned.

The heads of the departments and agencies concerned shall examine into the present arrangements within their departments and agencies for the conduct, direction and coordination of psychological warfare with a view toward readjusting or strengthening them if necessary to carry out the purposes of this directive.

This directive does not authorize the Board to perform any psychological warfare operations.

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