

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
Washington 25, D. C.

*Staffs Attache
file*

27 October 1999

In reply refer to:

Op-322H2/mjc
A3-1/EN3-11
Serial 12596P32

RESTRICTED

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Distribution List.
Subject: U. S. Naval Attache Representation in Foreign Countries.

1. The plan for reduction and consolidation of Service attache offices abroad has been approved by the Secretary of Defense as submitted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Implementation has been directed with a minimum of delay to the end that actual strength at various missions be brought into substantial conformity with the newly approved tables of organization. It does not preclude additional reductions in attaches or supporting personnel as may later be found feasible and desirable. Discretion has been granted the Services in taking the necessary action where (1) greater over-all saving to the Government may be achieved by deferment, not to exceed six months, (2) deliberately slow phase-out has been requested for diplomatic reasons by the Department of State, (3) involvement with the Military Assistance Program is concerned, and (4) alleviation of individual attache hardship or financial loss may be legally effected. It is recognized that the plan will result in reduced intelligence collection from non-critical areas, and that certain other functions not germane to the intelligence mission of the Service attaches will be curtailed or eliminated.

2. Tables of organization together with the required implementing action have been enunciated separately to the individual Naval Attache foreign posts concerned.

3. For information, a recapitulation of the Naval Attache foreign post status is presented:

NO CHANGE

Australia
Bulgaria
Denmark
Finland
France

REDUCE

Argentina
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China

NAVY review(s) completed.

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NO CHANGE

India
Iraq
Italy
Norway
Poland
Rumania
Great Britain (Singapore)
Spain
Turkey
USSR
Yugoslavia

REDUCE

Cuba
Egypt
Great Britain (London)
Greece
Indonesia
Korea
Mexico
Morocco (Tangier and Casablanca)
Netherlands
Portugal
Sweden
Thailand

CLOSE

DATE

OPEN

DATE

Colombia	Aug. 1949	Ceylon	Sept. 1949
Iran	Dec. 1949	Dominican Republic	Nov. 1949
Israel	Dec. 1949	Great Britain (Hongkong)	Oct. 1949
Lebanon	Dec. 1949	Pakistan	Feb. 1950
Peru	Dec. 1949	Philippine Republic	Dec. 1949
Union of South Africa	Aug. 1949		
Uruguay	Aug. 1949		
Venezuela	Mar. 1950		

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Op-32 (all branches, sections, units, and desks)

Felix Johnson
FELIX JOHNSON,
By direction.

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ARTICLE FOR THE ONLY REVIEW ENTITLED CONSOLIDATION OF THE ATTACHE SYSTEM

In June 1949 the Director of Naval Intelligence submitted recommendations concerning the closing out of certain posts considered less desirable from an intelligence collection standpoint and the opening of several new posts where intelligence was needed.

This recommendation was translated through channels to the Secretary of State who replied by recommending consolidation of the attache system into one office in order that these moves would not be so apparent to countries in which prestige is a vital factor. The Secretary of Defense took this communication from the State Department as an opportunity to unify the attache system and as a field for economy. In his directive to the Secretaries of the Services and Joint Chiefs of Staff 1 July 1949, he ordered that administrative functions should be confined at all attache posts. He further stated that there should be a Senior Military Attache with appropriate title. He directed the centralization of administrative functions including communications, libraries, offices, finance, supply and transportation. He directed that the Senior Military Attache be designated as early as possible and planning proceed.

The implementation of this paper was handed down to a Joint Ad Hoc Committee consisting of a Colonel from the Air Force, a Colonel from the Army and a Captain from the Navy. This Joint Ad Hoc Committee was originally given the authority to take action. However, the progress made by this committee was not satisfactory to the Management Committee headed by General McNamara in the Secretary of Defense's office. Pressure was exerted on the Joint Chiefs of Staff for more reductions and immediate action.

The Ad Hoc Committee continued to function at a somewhat accelerated pace. Any person who has worked on a joint committee knows the tremendous difficulty in ironing out details which are diverse between the Services. The Ad Hoc Committee met on common ground in regards to the over-all objectives. It was felt by them that one code room, one office, one paymaster and one system of supply would free the other attaches from these burdens which would interfere with their primary mission of collecting intelligence.

As a result of the speed up, hurried and in some cases drastic cuts were recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Secretary of Defense. This report as approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated in part that there will be a substantial reduction in over-all intelligence collection particularly in non-critical areas, and that many functions outside of the field of collection of intelligence would of necessity either be discontinued or curtailed. The report stated that of these

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This also reports concerned
The N/As are all the capitals !!*

functions to be discontinued or curtailed would be: fleet support and liaison, pilotage, berthing and tug arrangements, protocol in connection with official visits, port restrictions, amusements, facilities, health and related matter for supervision and indoctrination of liberty parties, practice and health clearance, provision ship contracts, necessary data for ships' routines as waste disposal, mail, harbor boats, communications, transportation, and meteorological data.

The full impact upon the Naval Attache System was that eight naval attache offices would be closed entirely, seventeen naval attache posts would be reduced quite substantially and minor or small reductions would be taken in remaining posts.

However, the above is not quite a true picture because in those posts in which the Navy did not take a reduction, it would be necessary that the naval attache assume the administrative duties and reporting of intelligence for the other two Services who had taken reductions at these posts.

The estimated reduction in costs and number of personnel employed is slightly over one-third. This compares favorably with the Air Force and Army whose reductions were one or two percentage points above this.

In arriving at which Service should be Senior Military Attache at the individual posts, it was agreed that this could best be handled by administrative action. A tentative list was drawn up and it was agreed that on the next regular relief the three Services would adjust their personnel in order that this list could be arrived at. The stations at which the Navy ultimately would be senior include: Australia, Ceylon, Chile, China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Great Britain, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway, Philippine Republic, Singapore.

It must be realized that in order not to cause drastic changes in personnel within the Service that it will take approximately two years to reach this goal.

The consolidation of the code rooms offered many difficulties but they are being ironed out. Restrictions on customship and use of personnel have been eliminated in order that a joint code room can now be used.

The fiscal and supply functions are being received by a special Ad Hoc Committee under the Comptroller of the Department of Defense. It is presently indicated that forms used will be either Navy or Army. Control of funds will be vested in the three agencies fiscal offices in Washington.

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