

DRAFT SSB PAPERCONFIDENTIAL

16 September 1948

Report by the
Subcommittee on Special Studies and EvaluationsRESEARCH IN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARETHE PROBLEM

1. To encourage and provide for research and development and support a National Psychological Warfare Program.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. The Subcommittee on Special Studies and Evaluations has been charged with preparation of policies, plans, and studies for immediate and continuous employment of national psychological warfare in time of war (or threat of war as determined by the President).

3. The Research and Development Board has correctly emphasized the need for immediate research and development in offensive and defensive psychological warfare (RDB Human Resources Report (HR 32/1, 28 June 1948)).

4. The scarcity of experienced personnel and laboratory facilities for conducting such research hinders expeditious implementation of research programs.

5. Psychological warfare to be effective and successful requires that the closest relationship exist between a national psychological warfare organization and the government agencies who determine national and foreign policies.

6. Psychological warfare requires an accurate knowledge concerning human characteristics typical of distinct foreign groups, races, religions, and languages. Such knowledge is of equal importance to agencies responsible for political, and economic warfare, and some "cold war" techniques.

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7. The Panel on Human Relations and Morale of the RDB Committee on Human Resources now has responsibility for coordinating research with respect to strategic planning and intelligence, psychological warfare, and other psychological interests not directly related to psychological warfare.

8. The RDB Committee on Human Resources has recommended a division of government funds for fiscal year 1950 to the three services for psychological warfare research. The State Department that has a major interest and responsibility in psychological warfare is not represented on this Committee.

9. One of the major needs that should be given the highest priority is the development of a psychological atlas for the Europe, Asia and Africa (North of the Equator) showing the geographical distribution of races, languages, religions and other psychological strengths and weaknesses of each foreign area in the above areas. A supplement to this atlas should be developed which periodically outlines the current morale of each foreign group.

CONCLUSIONS

10. For the most efficient use of the limited talent available, and for the most economical expenditure of government funds in psychological warfare research, all such research and development (basic and applied) and all allocations therefor should be the responsibility of one government research laboratory furnished with funds, personnel and facilities provided by all interested government agencies.

11. Allocation of responsibilities to each service separately will result in a duplication of facilities, and inefficient use of the limited experienced personnel now available for such research.

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12. The Research and Development Board in this connection should be designated as the Executive Agent for the National Military Establishment.

13. Planning and coordination of projects undertaken by and for the government research laboratory should be the responsibility of an appropriate staff on which the Department of State, in addition to the full representation by the Departments of the National Military Establishment, has consultative representation.

RECOMMENDATION

14. The Subcommittee on Special Studies and Evaluations recommends:

- a. that the conclusions be approved;
- b. that the conclusions as approved be referred to the Secretary of Defense for final approval and implementation and to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for concurrence.