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12 March 1951

MEMORANDUM TO: []
SUBJECT: Conversation with Richard Sterling
FROM: []

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. On 6 March 1951 I saw Mr. Richard Sterling of HICOG-BE, Public Affairs, to inquire about the content of a lengthy talk he had just had with Charles E. Newham. Among other matters, Newham had asked for 50,000 copies each of two brochures that had been worked up by HICOG, Public Affairs and distributed to all East visitors at the Grüne Woche exhibition in Berlin about one month ago. Newham intended to have the new batch distributed in HBREBEL. In view of a tendency in the past for Public Affairs to approach the covert field and the conflicts that arose as a result, I asked Mr. Sterling to withhold a reply to Newham until I could discuss the matter with my people.
2. In discussing this with you I pointed out the history of our relations with Public Affairs here and [] particular suggestion to me in January that Mr. Sterling be told plainly to keep clear of DTLINEN.
3. When I next saw Mr. Sterling I told him, as we agreed, that he should not give the material to Newham. I reminded him of our respective fields of competence and told him he could not distribute in HBREBEL or BGQUEEN. Any change in his field of competence would have to issue from discussions and agreements between our respective superiors.
4. Mr. Sterling agreed about the two fields of competence, overt and covert. He said, however, that he was acting perfectly properly in turning over material to Newham. The latter might distribute it legally in WSCORNY or DTLINEN might take it to HBREBEL. That responsibility lay with them. However, I feel sure he would agree that the situation is changed by his knowing beforehand that material he gives to Newham will be distributed in BGQUEEN and HBREBEL by DTLINEN, and that he cannot escape responsibility in such a case.
5. A more important motivating factor is that Newham has in the past successfully requested material from ISD, which has turned the material over to Newham through Mr. Sterling. It is obviously absurd for Mr. Sterling to be prohibited from providing Newham with material when the latter can request it from ISD and receive it ultimately in Mr. Sterling's office.
6. Recommendations:

A. That HICOG Public Affairs be restrained from supplying printed matter for covert distribution in BGQUEEN and HBREBEL principally because it is not versed in security techniques and because its members are not adequately secure in their conversations concerning such matters. It is my impression that QKCIGAR is not yet willing to be openly tagged in its

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covert propaganda. I believe it would be so tagged if Public Affairs were allowed to do business with organizations conducting clandestine distribution.

B. That Mr. Sterling be authorized to supply Newham and others like him with material for distribution in west WSCORNY. Mr. Sterling should make clear this limit to distribution to Newham or anyone else he supplies.

C. That arrangements be made to prevent Mr. Sterling's being bypassed when requests are made by indigenous persons and organizations for printed matter. The local Public Affairs office can be held accountable if all such requests and replies pass through that office. Newham should not be able to contact ISD directly.

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