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C.I.G. COUNCIL:
1st Meeting

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP COUNCIL
held in Room 5134, New War Department Building
on Monday, 18 March 1946, at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kingman Douglass, in the Chair
Colonel Louis J. Fortier
Mr. Ludwell L. Montague
Colonel C. P. Nicholas (representing Capt. W. B. Goggins)

SECRETARIAT

Mr. James S. Lay, Jr.

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1. FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP COUNCIL

MR. DOUGLASS explained that Admiral Souers desired that the Assistant Directors, Central Intelligence Group, form themselves into a Council to advise him and to discuss each others' problems. It was suggested that the Council meet each day, or as frequently as required. Mr. Douglass felt that the meetings should be very informal in nature.

COLONEL FORTIER said that he had suggested the creation of this Council as a means of enabling the Assistant Directors to keep abreast of current CIG affairs.

MR. LAY reported that Admiral Souers also desired that all papers for his approval be submitted first to the Council for discussion and recommendation. Admiral Souers also wishes to hold a weekly meeting with the Council each Tuesday morning. One of the regular items for discussion at this weekly meeting would be a weekly Status Report prepared by the Secretariat to show the status of CIG projects as of noon each Monday.

COLONEL NICHOLAS questioned whether this Status Report should include all matters under discussion or consideration within CIG. He felt, and it was generally agreed, that certain projects which were of a very tentative nature should have administrative privacy and be known only within CIG.

MR. LAY suggested, and it was agreed, that any matters which should be excluded from the Status Report should not be the subject of written Planning Directives or Reports Staff Directives.

2. USE OF RAW INFORMATION BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

COLONEL FORTIER noted that during the investigation of SSU the question kept arising as to whether CIG would do any research on raw material, or would depend upon material prepared by the four participating agencies.

MR. DOUGLASS felt that CIG should not undertake basic research, at least unless and until the former R&A Branch of OSS is eventually taken over by CIG. This is based on a conviction that CIG should not duplicate what is being done by the participating agencies. Mr. Douglass said that Mr. Sommers and General Magruder believe that Mr. McCormack may lose his present argument within State, and that in this case CIG should take over the former R&A Branch.

COLONEL FORTIER thought that SSU reports should go direct to the Central Reports Staff.

MR. MONTAGUE said that he would like SSU flashes for the Current Branch, but that only finished studies should be used by the Estimates Branch.

MR. DOUGLASS and Colonel Nicholas felt that faulty intelligence would result from the direct use by CIG of SSU Reports. Mr. Douglass said that in USSTAF no agents' reports were allowed to go to anyone higher than a Lieutenant-Colonel because of the danger that they were unreliable or even enemy-inspired.

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MR. MONTAGUE agreed that the Central Reports Staff should protect itself from this danger when it comes to preparing intelligence reports. He noted, however, that in preparing the Daily report only raw material is used, and they are precluded from commenting. The only control they can exercise on the Daily is suppressing a questionable item, although if the item is a significant official report of substantial size, they feel obliged to report it.

3. PREPARATION OF ACCESSION LISTS OF IMPORTANT PAPERS RECEIVED BY CIG

COLONEL FORTIER expressed the belief that the Secretariat should be prepared to make available any important papers of a policy nature which the CIG had received. In order to accomplish this he felt that the Secretariat should be notified whenever such a paper had been received.

MR. DOUGLASS agreed, and suggested that the Secretariat should prepare an accession list of such papers and circulate this list within CIG. It was agreed that intelligence reports received by the Central Reports Staff should not be included on this accession list.

4. SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS
(Draft Report by the Central Planning Staff)

MR. DOUGLASS felt that CIG should be careful about picking up too many activities which were not of a true intelligence nature. He considered this project a possible border-line case, and wondered whether this activity would produce intelligence.

COLONEL NICHOLAS said this could not be answered definitely but that the Planning Staff felt the subject should be studied.

COLONEL FORTIER noted that this survey covered the United States and the Western Hemisphere. He suggested that it be expanded to cover the whole world.

COLONEL NICHOLAS explained that the world-wide study was another project involving a suggestion for an interdepartmental committee on the acquisition of foreign library materials. The Central Planning Staff included the Western Hemisphere in the current paper because it believed that coverage of the foreign language press in that area might be of greatest value in uncovering subversive activities directed against the United States.

COLONEL FORTIER suggested, and Mr. Douglass agreed, that the present survey should be confined to the United States to avoid duplication with the broader project on world-wide coverage.

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MR. LAY noted that coverage in the United States was not being done and the question therefore was whether this should be done, and if so, by whom. Coverage of the Western Hemispheres, on the other hand, is being done at the present time. The question concerning U. S. coverage is therefore urgent and might well be undertaken separately.

MR. DOUGLASS suggested that the relationship of U. S. coverage might be noted in the paper by the addition of a paragraph "2-g. The value of such coverage in relation to the coverage of the press in foreign countries, particularly in the Western Hemisphere."