

February 19, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDGAR:

Subject: Reserve Officers Association Meeting Regarding the  
Establishment of a Central Intelligence Agency.

1. Mr. Pforzheimer and I attended a meeting of the Intelligence Chapter, District of Columbia Department, Reserve Officers Association of the United States, last night at the Officers Club on New Hampshire Avenue. A paper was presented for the consideration of the group outlining the general principles recommended for a new proposed central intelligence agency. Mr. Pforzheimer has the paper. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was adopted to forward the recommendations as amended to the Reserve Officers Association with the recommendation and request that they be forwarded to the appropriate committees of Congress as the recommendations of the Reserve Officers Association for preparation into a bill. Mr. Pforzheimer will doubtless discuss the details of the paper. I should like to bring to your attention and that of the Director a few general points:

a. The meeting was not hostile to the Central Intelligence Group, but was completely uninformed as to its activities. Its recommendations are pretty good, but they would have been much better and much more valuable if they had been made upon the basis of some knowledge of CIG activities and problems.

b. I was informed that the Director wished no member of CIG to open his mouth at this meeting. I was strongly of the opinion, however, that in three minutes' discussion either Mr. Pforzheimer or I could have cleared up many points on which the Reserve Officers were obviously in the dark. The Reserve Officers, and particularly the Intelligence Reserve Officers, could, if properly used, be most valuable in the promotion of sound intelligence legislation, etc. They cannot be expected to be of any particular use when they are quite uninformed as to what is going on.

c. I personally believe that instead of letting Donovan and others go round and get their ideas over, that steps should be taken by CIG to keep certain key personnel in the reserve groups informed in order that they may help to steer their respective associates along lines that would be most helpful to the development of sound intelligence. Specifically, I think a member of CIG, also a member of the local chapter here, should have been permitted to get on the drafting committee, to help steer them in their deliberations and recommendations.

2. The country needs education about intelligence. The more conversation there is on overt intelligence, the less speculation there will be on covert intelligence. I believe that a judicious amount of education and information to reserve groups, civic groups, American Legion and other associations of a like nature, should be encouraged under the sponsorship and careful leadership of personnel who are familiar with CIA difficulties and objectives.

WILLIAM M. ADAMS

1 Incl.

Concurred in by Mr. Pforzheimer

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