

May 27, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL DOVOVAN

DeWitt Poole reports that at the meeting this morning of the Interdepartmental Committee on Foreign Nationality Problems, Mr. Merriam of the Near Hastern Division of the Department of State reported in some length on the Department's attitude toward the current Zichist agitation in favor of a Jewish Army.

He remarked that the United States Government has not heretofore taken an explicit stand on this subject. As a result, the situation seems to have gone by default to the Zionists and to the proponents of a Jewish Army. The State Department is preparing action in order to correct this condition.

In considering the problem, the Department is giving full weight to the importance to us in the present military effort of the great Moslem bloc which extends from North Africa across the Middle East to Western India. It recognizes that Axis agents have made the most of the apparently favorable attitude of the United States Government towards. Zionism and a Jewish Army. The imperative need is felt to avoid a situation in which we would have to fight in the area in question not only the Axis forces but also the native population.

The State Department is, therefore, proposing to
recommend, presumably to the President, a public statement.

This statement, as now envisaged, would rest upon the
Atlantic Charter. It would assert that the principles
enunciated therein will be adhered to in the Near Lest.

The numerical preponderance of Arabs would then make impossible American support of an all-out Jewish state in Palestine.

As now proposed, the statement would then to beyond this negative intimation. It would assert categorically that the post-war settlement cannot be prejudiced by committeents at the present time in respect of an army for Pales in which would be exclusively Jewish.

In making this informal communication, Mr. Merrian acknowledged the value of the memorandum on a Jewish Army which was recently circulated from this Branch. As I think you know, it is this Branch, indeed, which alone has been scanning the Hebrew and Yiddish press in the United States and has followed actively the development of Zionist politics here. In view of the foregoing, we shall, of course, continued along this line.

John C. Wiley

Nur 22. 1

TO:

Colonel William J. Dunovan

Here are the minutes of the last meeting of Mr. Berle's Interdepartmental Committee for Foreign Nationality Problems.

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from: dewitt c. pocie

MINUTES OF TENTH MEETING OF THE THE PROPERTY OF THE THE PROPERTY PROPERTY.

> OFF - hr. Cranston Mr. Eugene Katz

COI - Mr. Poole Lieutenant Colonel Goodfellow

CIAA - Dr. Max Ascoli

WAR - Colonel Lawhon

NCEP - Dean Russell

JUSTICE - Mr. Hudson

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE:
_ Nr. Cromer

STATE - Mr. Hoskins

NEXT MEETING - MAY 13, 1942

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, hay 13, in Mr. Berle's office in the State Department.

Italian Recruits and Pacciardi's Report

Lieutenent Colonel Goodfellow advised that he hoped to have by the next meeting of the Committee a report on the results of Colonel Pacciardi's efforts to obtain Italian recruits for the COI special units.

Foreign Military Units

Colonel Lawhon reported that the Filipino Battalion previously authorized, has not yet been recruited to its full strength but so far has an enrollment of 222 men.

He also reported that there was some further consideration being given to a united Nations Battalion, despite the recommendations of this Committee against such a project.

Amorican Slav Congress in Detroit April 28

Mr. Cranston, who had attended the Conference in person, reported on the matter. He felt and Mr. Foole concurred that the Slav Congress had not fallen into the hands of the Communists and that their discussions and resolutions confirmed this fact.

Mr. Hoskins commented on the advisability in future instances of clearing such matters in advance in this Committee to prevent the situation that had in this instance occurred where the State Department was opposed to giving any support to this Congress and the OFF, on the other hand, had been supporting the project.

Report on the Recommendations on the Employment of Aliens in Defense Industries.

Mr. Cramer and Mr. Hudson summarized the proposals of a special committee that had been working on the problem of reducing the discriminations against the employment of aliens in defense industries. It was hoped that by the next meeting of this Committee they could report in greater detail on the program and on their progress in getting the agreement of the Army and the Navy to the recommendations to be submitted to the President.

Foreign Language Press

Mr. Hudson advised that a press release had been issued on April 28 by the Department of Justice, which included the text of the telegrem signed by the Attorney-General, which read as follows:

Gongressman Samuel A. Wells. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

The policy of the Department of Justice is not to suppress foreign is nguage newspect

Appropriate action against seditious reversely will be taken regardless of the language in which they are printed, but those level to the United States have nothing to four from the Government."

Francis Biddle
Altorney Seneral.

Archdukes Otto end Felix

Mr. Hoskins reported on a proposed trip by the Archives.

Otto and Felix to Mexico, Central American and Paname. He also reported on an incurry from Archive Otto as to the desirability of his making broadcasts in German to Austrians in South America. After some discussion of both matters, it was the general opinion of those present that they did not favor either of the propositions outlined above.

Statement regarding NCEP

Dean Russell presented for the benefit of the members of the Committee a brief statement of the activities of his organization. He outlined the work that had been done in the preparation of simplified booklets with numerous illustrations that could be used in citizenship work with partially illiterate or poorly educated aliens. He also explained how the work of his Committee had been set up on a decentralization basis in cooperation with state educational committees in 35 states of the Union.

Dean Russell said that a substantial amount of basic groundwork had been accomplished in this field and he hoped that work along these lines would continue, even though the specific activities of his organization might not extend beyond June 30, 1942.

HAROLD B. HOSELBS

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Dear Mr. Berle:

I transmit for your consideration my deservations recommendations with respect to the activities of some recommendations with respect to the activities of some rederal agencies engaged in a sincere effort to some court to before the law for Negro citizens and greater verticipation in the President's all-out endeavor to win the verticipation in the President's all-out endeavor to win the verticipation in the President's all-out endeavor to win the verticipation in the President's all-out endeavor to win the verticipation in the president of the sympathetic interest, vision and balance displayed by sympathetic interest, vision and balance displayed by Mr. Lawrence V. Gramer, Mr. Jonathan Daniels and Mr. Harriettas.

Hoskins, each of whom is doing a fine job in his particular field.

It is my considered opinion that despite what is being accomplished by these agencies the results would be far effective and satisfactory if a clearing house on legger affairs were established and the activities coordinated. At present there is considerable overlapping. Moreover, each agency is seeking to ameliorate conditions according to its own particular point of view and does not visualize the picture as a whole.

In my opinion, an agency should function designed to assume fuller responsibility for the promotion of better inter-racial relations; one clothed with authority by the inter-racial relations; one clothed with authority by the President to act promptly whenever it was deemed advisable. President to act promptly whenever it was deemed advisable. The "Sins of omission" have been responsible for some of the charges of discriminatory practices. In some instances these "sins of omission" were committed because no thought was given to including the Negro in the equation. On other occasions the exclusion was intentional and deliberate. It should be the duty of some agency to minimize this form of discrimination—whether it is consciously or unconsciously committed.

A bill has been passed by the House of Representatives to enlist 150,000 "sailorettes" to relieve men for sea-going service. I dare say that if the law becomes operative not one Negro woman will be brought into the picture until the Negro press and public register a loud out-ory that the color line has been drawn.

The "jim-crowing" of colored soldiers (sometimes of ficers) on railroads and buses, also the "jim-crowing" of vives and relatives to and from army camps, is a these for animated and bitter discussion among members of the race. Sometimes those mistreated are traveling from the North to the Bouth, at other times they are traveling from the South to the Bouth. Railroad officials, emologies and local authorities in backward communities should be taught the difference between an intrastate passenger and interstite passenger. The taught provides the clayle rights to which the Bouth of the services of the provided when the difference between the pioring the clayle rights to which the Bouth of the services of the services.

White discripting of Property of Cook and Park of the Cook and Park of t

weeklies of large circulation play up senset break to be seed on rumor and grossly misrepresent facts. A few senset of two white police officers and a colored to involved in an argument in the town of Tuskeges and a colored to the white officers attempted to take a sclored soldier from the M. P. In hig headlines the incident was recorted in the Negro press as a race rict at Tuskeges, sausing such perturbation among Negroes. At Washington there is no one such powered to point out in a tactful manner to editors that such irresponsible reporting should cease in the interest of morals.

I recommend that a body, to be known as "Interracial Commission" or "Interracial Committee" or "Bureau on Mepoo Affairs", be formed by the President and given definite authority to coordinate activities relating to interracial matters; also to initiate, to give guidance and make recommendations.

Some of the body's duties would be:

- 1. To bring about a betterment of public relations by giving greater emphasis in Negro press and on the screen (perticularly in motion picture houses largely patronized by negroes) definite gains being made by the race in the army, the various branches of government and in industry. This is a picture age and the Negro is stimulated as other racial groups when stories are told in pictures in newspapers and on the screen regarding racial participation in the arms of services and in war production work.
- 2. The body should take the initiative in bringing about the selection of capable, responsible colored newspaper men to accompany colored troops abroad whose responsible would be released by the body or some other agency. Negro morale, both on the battlefield and at home will be the winner.
- 3. To awaken interest among the women and girls of the race in raising funds to our chase cigarettes, etc. for collored troops.
- 4. To correlate the worthwhile achievements of the various agencies thereby enabling the Administration to have at hand valuable information on advantages gained by the Negro through the Federal Government since Lagrice's entry into the war.
- 5. To make contacts with the Federal Council of Churchs (Interracial Department); Colored Y.N.C.A., Colored Y.W.C.A., fraternal and other organizations with a view to ecrading for programs calculated to improve monals.
- 6. To function as interpreter of the coordinating genetics objectives.
- 7. De secure wider recognition for the seco the second editorial columns of the drily pross end is oblig section outlons.

of Messra. The As, Oramer and Daniel the City of Messra. With myself could organize just such have in mind if delegated to do so. have a sould not interfere with the good war. doing. You may be interested to know that my scarred collygat Newark Sunday evening was enthus lastice ly resided and at Newark Sunday evening was enthusiastically ressived and that the meeting was a big success. As one those to compare that the meeting was a big success. Presidents of least late me after I had spoken were three Presidents of least branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People--one from Brooklyn and the other two free New Jersey. My suspicion is they did not anticipate by making the kind of an address I did. The response by the President of the National Alliance of Postal Ecological Colored People in Philadelphia, was very the Eighth District, who lives in Philadelphia, was very friendly in tone, although he bears the reputation of Peing militant. militant. Sincerely yours, 2568 Seventh Avenue New York City

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Colonel Donaran

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FROM: DEWITT C. POOLE

MINUTES OF SEVENTH PERTING OF THE INTERDEPARTS

This meeting was held in Mr. Berla's office at.

11:70 r.m. Wednesday, March 18. Those present were the Collowing:

STATE - A-P - Mr. Berle :
Eu - Mr. Atherton
Mr. Reber
A-B/H - Mr. Hoskins

OFF - Mr. Eugene Katz

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COI - Mr. Poole

Lt. Col. Goodfellow

OCIAA - Dr. Mex Ascoli

WAR - C-1 - Colonel Lawhon

JUSTICE - Mr. L. M. C. Smith / Ur. Ennis

Next Meeting April 1, 1942

In view of the fact that reports on several matters would not be ready by March 25, the next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 1 in Mr. Berle's office in the State Department.

Alien Military Urits

No final report from the War Department was yet available owing to Mr. McCloy's absence from Washington.

Colonel Lawhon reported that nothing so far had been done to implement the third paragraph of the War.

Department's press release of February 19 in regard to

United

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United Nations military units and probably nothing of in be done by the War Department in view of this Committee's recommendations against such action.

As regards anti-Axis alien volunteers from South America, Colonel Lawhon advised that under existing rem lations there was no way for the United States to ver for their travel to this country. If, however, they are residents of the United States they may be taducted wheer Solective Service and in this way eventually obtain United States citizenship. This arrangement soplies to all except aliens of Asiatic descent. It was summerfed that Mr. Hoskins take up with the Division of American Republics the use of such anti-Axis volunteers locally wherever they may happen to be in South American count tries, rather than have them attempt to come to this country. It was felt that such individuals could be of distinct use in assisting the cause of the United National in many of the South American Ropublics where they are now living.

The question of recruiting Korean or Chinese units
to be used for special military purposes, Colonel Lawton
reported, is being given consideration by the War Department.

Mr. Poole was requested to report on the disagreement that appears to exist in Jewish and Zionist ranks

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in the United States in regard to the advisability of urging the organization of a separate Jewish army.

Foreign Nationalities Unit of COI

Mr. Poole reported on the development of the Foreign Nationalities unit of COI and the assistance this unit is now in a position to give to other Departments and agencies represented on this Committee.

Mr. Poole and Mr. Hoskins were requested to collect for the information of the Committee a list of festivals and conventions of foreign-born in this country that might be covered from the point of view of information regarding their activities.

The "Color" Problem

There was general discussion of the importance of handling the "color" problem in the United States to provent a development of race feeling damaging to our war efforts since Japanese efforts to make trouble in this field were continuing. It was recognized that the best results would be obtained if responsibility were concentrated in the hands of one agency, and it was agreed that CFF was the agency best suited to handling this matter. Mr. Berle mentioned the availability for sortice with OFF in connection with this negre problem of our former United States Minister to Liberia, Dr. Joseph L. Jornson.

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As regards the "color" problem abroad, it was points out that we were already faced with certain phases of it in the Caribbean on the one hand, and in the Far East on the other. In East Asia particularly the Japanese were making vicorous efforts to divide the United Nations by the claim that Great Britain and the United States were only working for continued domination by the white race and the continued subjection of the "colored" races, including the Chineso, the Filipinos, the Koroans and the Indians in Asia.

HAROLD B. HORKINS

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MINUTES OF SIXTH MEETING OF THE INTERDEMENT OF COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN NATIONALITY FROM A

This meeting was held in Mr. Berie's office at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 11. Those present were the following:

STATE - A-B/ - Mr. Borle
PA/D - Mr. Dunn
A-B/H - Mr. Hoskins

OFF - Mr. Cranston

COI - Mr. Poole Major Sends for Lt. Colonel Goodfellow

OCIAA - Mr. N. Rockefeller Mr. Wallace K. Harrison Dr. Max Ascoli

WAR - G-1 - Colonel Lawhon

NCEP - Dr. Cyr

JUSTICE - Mr. L. M. C. Smith

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, in Mr. Berle's office of the State Department.

Allied Military Units

Note was taken of the two memoranda submitted by EU and NE of the State Department opposing the formation of Allied legions or separate military units for the Yugoslavs, the Greeks, or any other members of the United Nations, whether serving under their own flag or under the American flag. The Committee agreed unanisously

that

that they felt the objections were valid and approved.

Mr. Berle's letter of February 27 to the Secretary of

War drawing the attention of the War Department to the

views of this Committee.

Proposed Italian Anti-Fascist Legion

colonel Lawhon regretted that because of the absence of Mr. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War in charge of such matters, no final report from the War Department on this subject was yet available. It was agreed that Mr. Berle should discuss this matter with Mr. McCloy promptly on his return, and it was hoped that a final report on this matter would be available at the next meeting of the Committee.

Dr. Ascoli reported that, based on information received from Mr. Romunldi, a representative of the Mazzini Society just returned from South America, that perhaps a total of 1500 anti-Fascist Italians might be recruited from South America. The interest in an anti-Fascist Italian legion was most intense in Uruguay, and it was suggested that a cable be despatched to our Embassy in Montevideo asking for further information on the present status of a "Garibaldi Legion" that was endeavoring to get recruits in Uruguay and Argentina.

Mr. Pools

Mr. Pools reported that Professor Salvaint estimate of the number of recruits for such an exti-Fascist Legion from both North and South America would. in his opinion, be very small. Professor Selvemini hed however, again referred to a much more fruitted freid that he thought would result from work with france. prisoners of war in Africa and India. It was Professor Solvemini's opinion that after six months work at least 10,000 to 12,000 men might be recruited for such and anti-Fascist unit. It was agreed that Mr. Borle should mention this matter to the heads of the American Mission about to leave for India with the request that they look into this during their visit. (It was later learned that there are approximately 140,000 Italian prisoners of war in India, plus 60,000 Italian colonial troops) Suggestion of the Division of Far Eastern Affair.

ment the incorporation into the United States Arry of units of Chinese, Koreans or even anti-Aris Japanese who might now be in the United States for special duties such as attacks on Japanese islands, there their knows edge or racial background might be of special use. It was noted that under existing legislation these client were not allowed to serve in our armed force.

suggestion was referred to Colonel Lawhon for such further consideration by the Army as they saw Little Military Participation by Friendly Thomy Altens

Mr. Hoskins reported an increasing number of requests on the part of anti-Axis aliens in the United States and in South America to enlist in the United States Army for active military service; among others anxious to serve were Austrians, Hungarians, Hungarians, Hungarians, and Spanish Loyalists. Here again, under existing regulations, these individuals cannot serve in the United States armed forces. It was agreed that this subject should be given further consideration by this Conmittee and that Colonel Lawhon be asked to report on any ideas on this subject that the War Department might have.

In this connection, Mr. Berle reported that the Attorney General had requested a representative from the State Department be appointed to consider with Department of Justice officials the problem of possible reclassification of enemy aliens, which might help correct the existing difficulties. Mr. Hoskins was instructed to serve and to report back to this Committee the results of such discussions.

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Alien Scamen

Mr. Berle mentioned a problem that was developing where alien seamen were deserting their ships and seaking employment in defense industries. These desertions were being promoted at least in part by Axis propagands in an effort to handleap our shipping. This matter was referred to Mr. Smith of Justice, with a request that it be looked into and that this Committee we advised of the results at a later date.

"Color" Problem

An increasing amount of propaganda efforts among negrot. In the United States attempting to stir them up oppoint the whites was reported. It was agreed that in the domestic field this was a problem that was the marticular responsibility of OFF and OCD. Note also was then of the fact that in India and China also Axis efforts were in many places concentrating on exciting racial antagonism to the domination of whites and particularly of the Anglo-Sazons.

This also, it was agreed, was a problem requiring further consideration by this dommittee.

HAROLD B. HOSKINS

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STCRUT

March 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO COLONEL DOMOVAN

Mr. Berle's Interdepartmental Committee for Foreign
Nationality Problems met in his office this morning at
11:30. In addition to Mr. Berle, Mr. Hoskins and Mr.
Dunn of the State Department and myself, there were
present also Nelson Rockefeller, Dr. Ascolf and Mr.
Harrison; Messrs. Cranston and Katz of O.F.F.; Mr.
L. M. C. Smith of Justice; Major John Sands (G-2
liaison with the State Department, understood to represent Colonel Goodfellow at this meeting); and Colonel
Lawhon of G-1.

Mr. Berle referred to two memorands which had been prepared in the European and Near Eastern Divisions of the Department of State (copies attached) and reported that the question of an Italian military unit was still under consideration by the War Department. Later on Mr. Berle said that he expected soon to have an informal talk on the subject with Mr. McCloy.

When someone asked about the Austriana, Mr. Berle remarked that that question might deserve consideration later on, but he had to remark a great sensitiveness on the part of the British whenever the Austrians were

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mentioned. He recalled that the British were disturbed by the recent decision of the Department of Justice not to classify Austrians as enemy aliens and had asked if this decision signalized an intent to "de-recognise" the Anschluss.

had to be taken at the War Department but he was prepared to make known unofficially and confidentially some of the objections which were being made to the idea of a special Italian unit. Apart from the obvious administrative difficulties, doubt had been raised regarding the reliability of such a unit, especially if it should come in conflict with other Italians. Stress had also been placed upon the unfavorable effect on military morals of any reverses the unit might suffer; upon the susceptibility of members of such a unit to subversive propagates; and the disturbing effect of the fact that members of such a unit would if captured by Italian forces no doubt be treated as traiters and shot.

Dr. Ascoli then reported the receipt of information from South America indicating a considerable movement there toward enrollment in a Garibaldi legion, supposed to be recognized in the United States. There was even a report, he said, from Montevideo that an unofficial recruiting office was in operation there. Mr. Berle said he would have the American Legation report on this subject. Please refer in this connection to my

accompanying memorandum of a later private conversation between Dr. Ascoli and myself.

Mr. Berle them asked me to report on my recent conversation with Professor Salvemini at Cambridge. I told of Professor Salvemini a extreme exepticism for garding the number of probable recruits for an Italian free legion. Dr. Ascoli characterized Professor Salvemini skepticism as undoubtedly excessive.

Some discussion ensued about recruitment among.

Italian prisoners in Africa and elsewhere. Dr. Ascell suggested the possibility of forming a small Italian cadre in this country and then sending them to Africa as "missionaries". Mr. Berle observed that any Italian unit or units which might be realized would undoubtedly find their service in the Middle East.

Mr. Berle then passed on to the second point in the agenda for the meeting. This was the agitation coming now from several quarters for the reclassification of certain enemy aliens as "friendly". It was being upped that Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, now registered as Italians should be so reclassified. Rabbi wise had asked that German-Jewish refugees should be reclassified. It was a matter for the Attorney General. Various possibilities presented themselves but the problem was obviously difficult.

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his agenda. This was the problem of alien seamen. It appeared that about 400 alien seamen from ships of the allied nations were leaving their calling on the seamen month and entering defense industries or seat-defense industries. This was again a natter for the Department of Justice. Mr. L. M. C. Smith remarked that he had been endeavoring to induce industry to make the ploy aliens; he would no doubt now be cordially received if he asked industry to refuse to employ at least one cestegory of aliens. Someone remarked that the practical problem was really to police the water fronts and prevent touts from luring the seamen away from their ships with the promise of high wages in industry.

The discussion then passed on to the possibility of special military units for Koreans and Chinese. I left at this point in order to report to your office.

Mr. Hoskins will furnish an official minute of the meeting and this will be sent on to you in due course.

DeWitt C. Poole

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MENORALDUK PROVING WALLES (24)

In general the European Division is supposed to the organization of such units either within or separate in the United States Army. The reasons for this position may be summarized briefly as follows:

- has followed a policy of encouraging allens coming to this country to forget their ties with the Cid World and to make themselves fully a part of the United States. Such a policy has tremendous long term advantages and departure from it, even in connection with the further ance of the war effort, should, it is believed, be made only under the most exceptional circumstances.
- 2. Under the procedure now being formulated by Selective Service System, the War Department, and this Department, aliens who are nationals of co-belligerent countries who have not declared their intention of become ing American citizens will, under prescribed conditions, be given the opportunity of opting to serve in the forces of their countries and while so serving receive deferred status under the United States Selective Service System. Furthermore, aliens who have declared their intentions and also American citizens may, if they choose, serve in one of the co-belligerent forces and receive deferred status provided they have unsuccessfully offered their services on a volunteer basis to the United States armed forces and provided further that they have not been classified by the Selective Service System in one of the groups considered as being unavailable for service in the American armed forces, i.e. skilled workers decession to the national health, swfety and interest; those esployed on defense projects who cannot be spared, persons deferred by reason of dependency and others deferred by

This Division feels that the Proposed procedure indicated above gives ample leeway for any alien resident of this country to serve in the forces of his own country if he so desires.

- 3. It is felt that any alien immigrant in this country should feel honored by the trust and confidence shown in him by permitting him to serve on an equal footing with an American citizen in the armed forces of the United States.
- 4. Eu feels that special consideration should given to the feet that I. a for any one of the oc bold to the cult if not impossible to complete the co-belligerent.
- by This Division (columns to the second of t

military authorities from the thousands of individual of foreign birth who will be serving troumout the inerican armed forces. In this way our military authorities would have full control over selecting the mon and using them to the best adventage without pressure from foreign governments or organizations in this country.

It will be noted that the above applies to alter military units composed of nationals of co-belligarent countries or of Americans desiring to serve in the force of such countries. Nationals of enemy countries who are residing in the United States are plained in a separate category under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and will, of course, not receive the privileges granted co-belligarents as outlined above. For this reason it would soom that there are adequate grounds for differentiating between these two general groups and for setting up for example an arti-fascist Italian unit if it should be deemed advisable to do so after further study and consideration of the War Department's examination of the problem.

MEMORANDUM FROM MIT. ALIEN (NE)

This Division believes that the formation of a separate Greek military unit in the United States route not constitute a material contribution to the war effort and rould be unwise from the point of viscost Aperican interests. The foregoing observations router both to Greek units which might serve under the American flag and to units under the Greek flag.

There are relatively few Grock national in the United States of military age who are not subject to United States Selective Service. Practically all of the Greeks in this country, therefore, who desire to fight the enemy have an opportunity to do so by electing to be selected for the American Army. The Greek Minister, who wrote to the Department in January psting distinct a Creek military unit would be approved, has admitted that if the American Government does not favor American citizens of Greek origin joining the suggested unit, there is little purpose in his pursuing the matter further, since there would not be enough Greeks (i.e. non-American citizens) who would volunteer to make up the unit.

It hardly needs be added that this Division would be particularly opposed to allowing American citizens to participate in forming a Greek military unit at a time when this country is at war. It would seem to be the duty of American citizens to defend this country and its interests on any battlefront, and not merely to fight for specialized purposes such as a Greek unit would be designed to do.

But the chief consideration against the formation of a separate Greek unit in the United States, from the point of view of matters pertaining to the work of this Division, is the fact that such a unit, whether it included American citizens or not, would run counter to the efforts of the Division to encourage Greeks in the United States to give first consideration to the United States, the country in which they have chosen to make their homes.

As regards the use of a Greek unit for psychological warfare purposes, there already exists a sizeable Greek. Army and Navy in the Near East which may be built up for this purpose.

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In reply refer to A-B/H

February 27, 1942

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There has been meeting under my direction for several weeks past an Interdepartmental Committee for Foreign Nationality Problems. This Committee, as its name indicates, has been dealing with the problems of aliens in this country and also the frequently related ones of American citizens of various foreign birth.

Note was taken of the press release issued by you on February 19 in regard to the organization of the Ist Filipino Infantry Battalion, Army of the United States. It was realized that a special situation with regard to the Filipinos no doubt made such a unit advisable and it was the consensus of opinion of the Committee that this move by the War Department had considerable merit and was no doubt highly appreciated by the Philippine Government. In the third paragraph of this press release reference was made to the fact that the War Department was also "giving consideration to the organization of a similar battalion from citizens of the allied nations now in the United States". The attached memorandum summarizes the reasons why in the opinion of this Interdepartmental Committee the organization of such a unit would appear inadvisable, and I am submitting this menu.

In the final paragraph of this memorandum reference is made to the fact that this Committee felt that consideration should be given at this time to the formation of an anti-Fascist Italian Legion serving under the direction of the United States armed forces but with its own officers and under its own flag. The Committee fully realize that from a military point of view such an Italian Legion would have great administrative complications and that if it were later decided that such a legion should be formed it would be justified not formilitary but only for political or propagands reasons.

The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,

Secretary of War.

The Committee requested me to advise you of them viewpoint in this matter also and to ask that the war Department be good enough to make a study of this proposal and to give to this Committee such information on the War Department's point of view as would be of sistance in a further discussion of this subject.

Colonel Z. R. Lawhon of C-1 has attlended several meetings of this Committee and is informed on the discussions of this Committee to date.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

ADOLF A. BERLE.

Assistant Secretary

Enclosure:

Memorandum dated February 23, 1942.

The following Government Departments are members of this Committee and the meetings have been attended by one or more of the representatives listed below:

OFF - Mr. A. MacLeish; Mr. Ulric Bell; Mr. Keith Kandg Mr. Alan Cranston.

COI - Lt. Colonel Goodfellow; Mr. John C. Wiley;

Mr. D. C. Poole

CIAA - Mr. N. A Rockefeller; Mr. Wallace K. Harrison; Dr. Ascoli.

OCD - Mr. Jonathan Daniels.

NCEP - Professor Cyr.

ARMY - C-1 - Colonel Z. E. Lawhon STATE - Mr. A. A. Berle, Jr.; Mr. J. C. Dunn; Mr. H. B. Hoskins.

February 23, 1942

COPY

MEMORANDUM TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT

Alien Military Units

The Secretary of War announced on February 19.
1942 the organization by the War Department of the list
Filipino Battalion and stated that the Army was giving
consideration to the formation of additional bettellies
or units composed wholly of alien residents of various
United Nations.

In regard to the latter suggestion, after a general discussion, it was the consensus of opinion of all reachers of the Interdepartmental Committee for Poreign Eationality Problems that such action would appear its visable and that the reasons for this position should be submitted to the War Department for its consideration.

The points in question may be briefly summarized as follows:

- 1) It has been the policy of the United States Government in the past not to emphasize different racial backgrounds, and to date no military units in the United States Army, with the exception of the recently organized Philippine Battalion, have been set up on racial, religious or national bases;
- 2) In an agreement recently arrived at between the Selective Service, the war Department and
 State Department, a policy was agreed upon with regard to the military service of all aliens in the
 United States that are subject to our draft laws.
 United States that are subject to our draft laws.
 Among other things this agreement allows aliens subject to our draft to enlist in the armed forces of
 their own nationality provided such voluntary
 listments are made prior to such aliens being called
 for physical examination and induction by our Army:
- 3) It was felt strongly that such aliens as were called under Selective Service vac chose to serve in the United States army rather than in any

foreign army should not be segregated into separate alien units according to their various nationalities, but should be distributed throughout car armed forces like American citizens. The obvious difficulties to the Army in the administration of military units of aliens would in the opinion of this Committee be substantial. It was felt that in the formation of segregated alien units serving under the American flag there were no compensating political advantages but in fact definite disadvantages;

4) At the same time, the Committee felt that it might well be advisable, for political reasons, to consider the organization of foreign legions composed of aliens fighting under their own officers and flag but under the direction of United States armed forces. It was readily recognized that from a military point of view such units would probably have even greater administrative complications for the Army than separate alien units serving in our Army under our flag. The organization of such foreign legions would therefore only be justified not for military but only for political or propaganda reasons.

At this time it was felt that consideration should be given to the formation of an anti-Fascist Italian Legion. It was suggested that the Army be advised of this viewpoint and that they be asked to give to this Committee any suggestions that they might have that should be considered in the further discussions of this subject.

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MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL DONOVAN:

The group which has been meeting with Mr. Berle at the State Department is referred to in the minutes of its last meeting (prepared for Mr. Berle by Mr. Hoskins) as the "Interdepartmental Committee for Foreign Nationality Problems."

Mr. Poole was out of the city and did not attend the last meeting which took place February 25, but Colonel Goodfellow was there.

We near from Mr. Hoskins that the next meeting is planned to take place a week from Wednesday, that is March 11. Mr. Poole will attend as usual unless we hear from you to the contrary.

John O. Wile:

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11/1/2

From: D. C. Poole

Legistry Louis Ma

To: Mr. John C. Wiley

The interdepartmental group having to do with foreign nationalities met this morning in the office of Mr. Berle.

Department of State. There were present, besides Mr. Berle and myself, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Reber and Mr. Moskins, of the Department of State; Dr. Ascoli, Associate Coordinator of Interment of State; Mr. Josephus Daniels), of the Office of Civilian Dafense; Mr. Cranston, of O.F.F.; Colonel Lawhon, of G-1, War Department; and Colonel Goodfellow, of C.O.I.

Mr. derle said that a formal inquiry had been received from the Greek minister respecting the formation of a special Greek military unit. Mr. derle intimated that he did not been tieve that the enlistment of Greeks in one or note special units would serve any military purpose. He recognized, however, that it might have political value. Colonel Goodfellow remarked that C.O.I. was already engaged in the recruitment of a considerable body of Greeks for a particular purpose. I observed that Greek units might, in addition to their political value, have real military usefulness for so-called commands work. Er. Berle said that he doubted this, but was sufficiently impressed by the political aspect to suggest that a reply be made by the Department of State to the Greek Minister inviting him to indicate more pressed.

some plan of procedure. This huggestion received the acoustic escence of all present. It transpired that the Division of lear Eastern Affairs in the Department of State had already drated a reply to the inquiry of the Creek Midister in a completely negative sense. Mr. Barle indicated that this proposed reply would now be discarded and that the door would be left open for further discussion.

Mr. Berle then passed on to the question of a special Italian military unit. Colonel Lawhon, upon being asked his opinion, reported that the Secretary of War would issue at his press conference tomorrow a statement that a special Filipino battalion was about to be formed and stationed in California. It would be a regular unit of the United States army, wearing the imerican uniform. Later on, Colonel Lawhon related unofficially that the original proposal had been for a special Filipino division, but in the end only a battalion had been agreed to. It was possible that the battalion might in time grow into a regiment or even a brigade.

Colonel Lawhon went on to report that the Secretary of war would also announce that later on perhaps a similar patticion would be formed for other nationalities. Separate nationalities units were not in view, he said, but a single battarron or I required unit which would comprise aliens of various nationalities.

A general discussion ensued and it appeared in the sent to be the sense of the meeting that one unit or legion, or the ever it might be called, wherein a variety of foreigners prought together, would not yield any political adult.

Therefore it and not to be recommended. Political advantage
was to be obtained only by the creation of inite (such as an
Italian legion, for example) which would symbolize the newscreatic aspirations of a particular mation.

conviction that an Itulian unit might very well be worthwhile particularly if it could be employed in North histen and become the means of immenting unrest and perhaps desertions in the regular Itulian forces. It would also be possible to recruit such a legion from among the Itulian prisoners of war in Egypt and India.

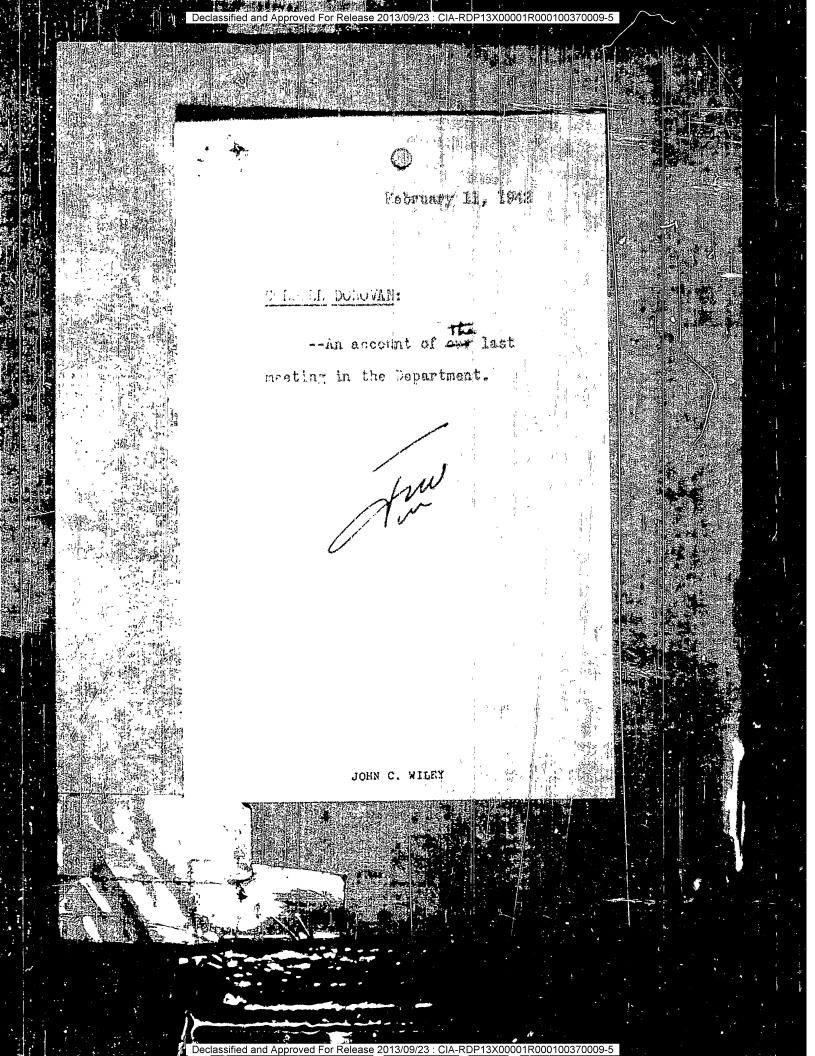
military disadvantages connected with special cariorality units. There are the obvious difficulties of military administration and the problem of supplies and material. It was plain that the United States would have to finance these units completely and devise means of paying those in the ranks and the officers. It had to be observed from application point of view that no lack of sampower existed in the United States. The pinch was with respect to material. Therefore, very accept political reasons would be needed to overcome the opposition which might be expected from G-3 and other divisions of the material. Department.

Mr. Berle insisted, nevertheless, upon the important political, and hence military, advantages which might in the end be realized, and in doing so he appeared to have the concur

rence of the others present. AT Berle mentioned the near for a political committee in the case of a possible Italian legion, and designated Count Sforms as the plainty indicate. leader. I remarked that Count Sforms as the plainty indicate. leader. I remarked that Count Sforms as the plainty indicate. leader. I remarked that Count Sforms as possition on the political countries occupied an equally distinguished position in a military way. I expressed the view that the primary emphasis should always be upon the military enterprise, and that a political countries in a possible in the background. Are berle and the others acquired escent in many estimate of Colonel Pacciardi. Are derived that a political countries escent in many estimate of Colonel Pacciardi. Are derived that it is a possible countries.

ar. Cranstan are ayself also spoke of the cossible dedirability of Yugoslav and Polish units. Mr. Cranstan employsized his conviction that a special Italian unit would have are propagance value. In starting with the Italians, however, we should be careful to avoid wounding the sensibilities of Yugoslavs, the Greeks and other friends.

It was agreed that another meeting of the group would probably be called for next week.



COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION

INTEROFFICE MEMO

FROM: DeWit

DeWitt C. Poole

DATE Sebrusey II III

To:

Mr. John C. Wiley

SUBJECT:

The group, or committee, on questions effecting foreign nationalities which has met neretofore with Mr. Hosking all the State Department was convoked today in the office of Mr. Herie, Assistant Secretary of State, and Mr. Herie took the lead in directing the discussions. There were present beside Mr. Herie Mr. Hoskins and myself -- Mr. Keith Kane and Mr. Alan Cranaton of the Office of Facts and Figures and Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, Dr. Max Ascoli and Mr. Wallace K. Harrison of the Office of the Coordinator for Latin American Relations.

In consequence of the oresence in my office on important business of two gentlemen from the Civil Service Commission, I arrived at the State Department meeting late. When I came in the subject of discussion was the possible formation of military units among certain foreign nationalities. I gathered from Mr. Berle's remarks that he had consulted the Attorney General and had concluded that the only feasible, if not the only possible manner of procedure would be to enlist foreign shiens in the American Army in accordance with the Draft Act and then, if it seemed desirable, segregate those having certain mationality and language characteristics in special units, just as there might be a segregation in special units of the soldiers posseding particular technical abilities.

Mr. Berie seemed to be an time point of having the consistered agree that this should be the procedure followed in case mythom of the kind were done at all. I managed to interject somewhat vaguely the observation that I believed that quite a while ago there had been some discussion on this whole problem of inverge nationality units between Colonel Donovan and General Marshell and Secretary Hull and Mr. Dunn (one or both of the latter, I wasn't sure which). I asked whether there had been a definite request by the War Department to the Department of State for a decision by the latter on the political aspects. Mr. Berieve answer was not altogether clear. Mr. Hoskins interjected a reterence to a meeting some time ago which had been attended by Major Goodfellow and certain representatives of G-2. At that time he said it had been agreed that the State Department would have to make the decision.

I made it clear by my attitude that I simply was not advised, nor in any way competent, to speak on the problem im question. Later on I found an appropriate moment to refer at to my understanding that conversations had taken place much earlier between Colonel Donovan and the others mentioned above. This time Mr. Berle replied that the question of recruiting and maintaining foreign legions was obviously one calling for a decision in the highest quarters. He mentioned the President.

A general discussion now ensued in which Mr. Eare and Dr. Ascoli took a prominent part. The discussion turned on the cossible value from the point of view of propagance, both

domestic and foreign, of special military uniter such as a Garibaldi Legion. It did not seem to me that this disquestor came to any clear conclusion.

Out of this discussion emerged the further problem of relations with the Free Movements. When Mr. Berle asked as one or two questions in this connection, I said that I had nothing to do officially with concrete decisions on problems of policy, and I assumed that he was simply drawing me out as a former seater of the starf of the State Department. In that degacity I ventured only to emphasize the great desirability of retaining will control of each and every situation within the hands of the american Government. It would seem natural and wise to consult all those who might give helpful advice, such as members of the hazzini Society for example; but I thought that those consulted ought to be dealt with in their individual degacities, and that I felt sure hr. Berle would not ermit any function of authority to slip over in any way into the hands of others, such as national advisory groups.

There seemed to be a good deal of agreement on this point, and my remarks served to keep the discussion going along pretty general lines until one o'clock, when Mr. Berle found it recessor to leave.

Thereafter some informal talk took place among Ar. Housing, Mr. Kane and myself. Mr. Kane expressed misgiving regarding to title which had been given to the committee in the last memorandum received from Mr. Hoskins. I said that I too had wendered

about this. Mr. Kane then went on to present, in an able and convincing way, the is a that this domnittee should be simple an informal consultative group on problems relating to the Toreign nationalities in the United States. He thought it might serve as a useful clearing house. Each unit represented rould, of course, proceed with the execution of its so rourists function. The State Department would decide what it had to decide, and so the informal advice was desired upon particular points no coubt that advice ould be gladly given.

I took the occasion to say to Mr. Heaving that I understook that nothing in the may of decisions had been taken at the meeting this morning. He said that he thought a decision had been taken recogning the manner of organizing foreign military units. I said that I had not been clear on that soint and certainly did not seel competent to associate myself with any decision of that wind. Mr. Heakins then said that he would reduce that point and other soints to writing and circulate a statement among he sail, and we could then make whatever comments we wished. Mr. Kone and I indicated that we thought this to be a good idea. Earlier in the discussion onen Mr. Berle was present I had emchasized, as noted above, that whatever I might say at any particular time was merely an expression of personal opinion, and that in any case whatever I did or said was ad referentian.

Mr. Berle acquiesced in this.

At luncheon after the meeting Hr. Hoskins expressed creat regret that the committee did not seem to get snythere. James y 18, 1942

Managrandes for Mr. Whave

Confirming my conversation the other day, which that in commection with the sork of the foreign hationalities Division, you send to the James Glement Dunn a copy of all material that you send to the Department of State. In James Limited with me for the otate Department, and I desire that he be acquainted with what we are doing.

W.J.IE

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Jenuary 18, 1945

SUST DECRET

MALOJA MA PULTA ALAM:

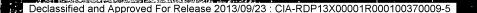
next this corning and inquired with regard to his reaction to our meeting esterial with ir. Torle. The replied that he thought that this said go a just about as well as could have been hoped for. It was clear, he said, that the attached aspearance, as well as her. There's remarks, were shout as provocative as they could be. Bevertheless, he thought that to had all handled ourselves very well and that the development of the idea of a working condities on which both the Foreira Nationalities branch and the Flo would be represented was a good one. If it did not turn out well, he added, one could alva a withdraw. Indeed he thought there was a chance that this committee might work itself out of her. Berle's orbit, which would be very desirable.

ine mentioned ar. hackeish and spoke of his personal antagonism to ir. Berle. I replied that when I noticed an atmosphere of battle, I immediately decided to be very peace-loving; after Pearl Harbor it was perfectly obvious that

people in the Government had to work together no Watter with the circumstances were. And as far as I, personally, was don-cerned, a collaboration with the State Depurtment had to be successful no matter what the obstacles might be.

John C. Willey

JCA:BJ



James 25. 1842.

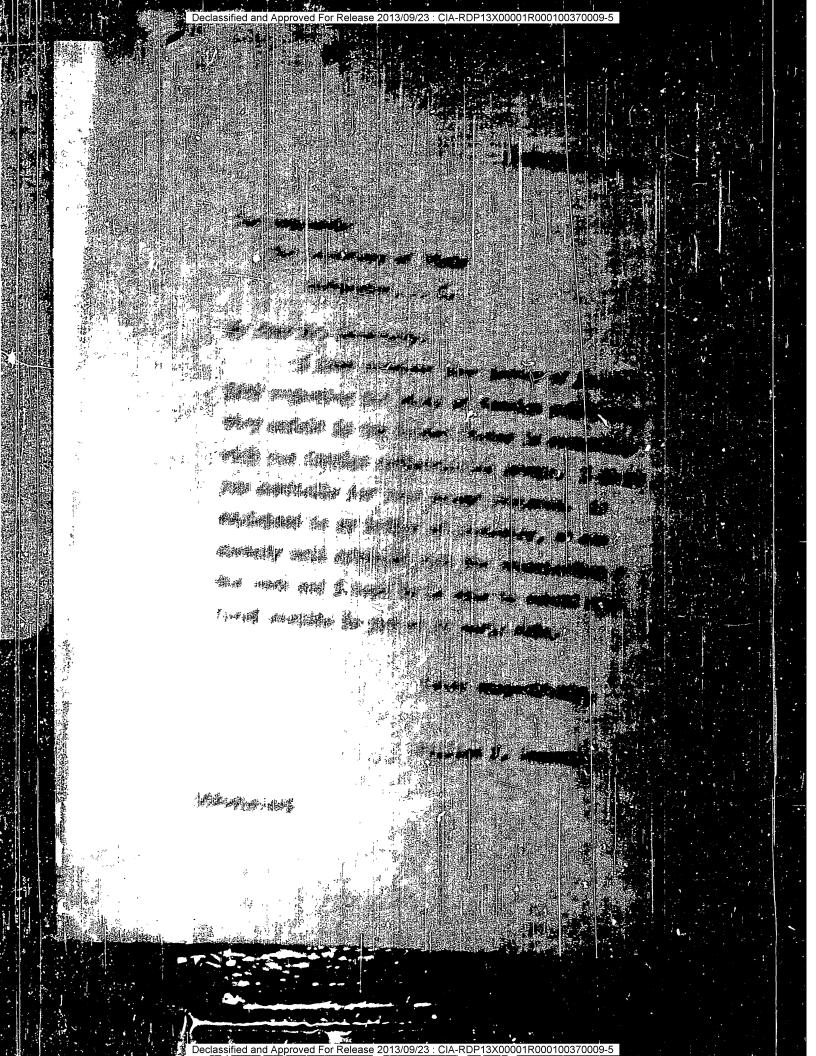
Dear Mr. Berlet

Hoskins of the meeting in your office to morrow. I had hoped to be able to break an engagement in order to be there but could not stop a group coming on from built ornia. I do not ask that the meeting be postponed, as in. Wiley and in. Peole are thoroughly familiar with the subject to be considered.

Sincerely,

William J. Domeres

Hon. A. A. Berle,
Assistant Secretary of State.



January 17, 114

The Honorable

The Secretary of Shate Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have remeived your letter of January.

12th regarding the study of formign politically they unfold in the United States in connection with the foreign nationalities groups. I then you cordially for your proupt reasons.

explained in my letter of yesterday, we are already well advanced with the organization of the work and I hope to be able to sabait first results to you at an early date.

Yours respectfully

William J. Donoven

DCPoole: moi

ROUGH DRAFT OF LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1/19/42

Ny dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received your letter of January 12th regarding the study of foreign politics as they unfold in the United States in connection with the foreign nationalities groups. I thank you cordially for your approved is explained in my letter of yesterday, we are already well advanced with the organization of the work and I hope to be able to submit some first results to you at an early date.

Very sincerely yours,

William J. Denoved

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HOTOLOGIC DELLE STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

Sir

In confirmation of the conversations which have been selled with you on the subject, I wish to inform you will be be been selled in within your office, a branch book set up for the purposes of:

- (1) Maintaining contact with numerous persons as delile by the Department of State, including persons like the from abroad with the idea of influencing the local collection governmental policy in the field of foreign affiliation
- coordinating all available information and property which will enable the American Government, and the partment of State in particular, to be surprisely acquaint with sentiment, activities and cross-correct within factorial nationality groups and factions in the United States as the relate to foreign affairs, and the identities and decrease their leaders, press and radio, as those value to foreign affairs. The Department, moreover, would desire correct to ports on particular situations.

The Department urgently desires to have studies of this kind made for its benefit and use and to have the most handle in COI by persons of diplomatic and fereign political structure. Who are familiar with the State Department's methods and results ments.

The activities of the Department in this field were 19-20-20 by usego and considerations of printicability, and it is form

that outside of the Deportment there is no placer of the Government more appropriate and deportment to mission the work than COI. I shall therefore be present if present the patients.



Dear Sumer:

telephone, I enclose hereof to a resolution of a letter on the ambject of the process new Branch. Please make such was of it as you may see fit.

Yours simesfull.

Honorable Summer Walled, Under Secretary of State Department of State Vashington, D. G.

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MINORAL AM POPE

The President

Prof.: The Correspondence of Laboration

quested me to net up a branch in my office with the takes and report upon foreign politics as they unterly to this States in connection with our foreign religionship.

- (1) To keep surrently informed west for its political personalities in the United States, such as Morse, October 1988.

 Hapsburg, Hodge of Czechoslovakie, Chesters, and South
- (2) To keep informed generally respective foreign
 political activities among the nationality groups in the failed
 States, their leaders and factions;
- (3) To appraise this information and specific the ports to the State Department and other pollor makes

I have made considerable progress in the direction sired, having placed the work in the heads of John Blog and Dewitt C. Pools, both of whom have had long signally stated ience. The work has been discussed with weith health and the sind has his given it his blessing. Freels, should be substituted to the Bureau at the blessing with the best of the Bureau at the blessing with the best of the Bureau at the blessing with the best of the Bureau at the best of the bureau at the b

Jest L

MEMORANDIAL FOR:

The Prosident

From:

The Coordinator of Information

Summer Welles, on behalf of the State Deportunit, requested me to set up a branch in my office which well state and report upon foreign politics as they unfeld in the latter States in connection with our foreign-nationality groups. Its tasks would be:-

- (1) To keep currently informed about foreign political personalities in the United States, such as Stores, Otto at Hapsburg, Hodge of Czechoslovakia, Chantemps, and so on;
- (2) To keep informed generally respecting foreign political activities among the nationality groups in the United States, their leaders and factions;
- (3) To appraise this information and submit timely reports to the State Department and other policy meting branches.

I have made considerable progress in the direction besided, having placed the work in the heads of Jahn Filey and DeWitt C. Pools, both of whom have had long diplomatic experience. The work has been discussed with branifall limitable and he has given it his blessing. Freeier estimates are about to be submitted to the Bureau of the Beaget and Laurence.

The fierefore to kee if you approve.

Jemeny 12, 1942

The ionorable

The Secretary of State Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mr. Welles, Mr. perlo and others at the state Mercutment and myself in the course of which I was asked
to undertune for the State Department the study of
foreign political activities and trends in the little
States. The project was munitied to the Product
and received his written approval. I proceeded to
the necessary organization, and results of successful.

Last week estimates to provide for the new Branch were presented to the Bureau of the Ballet. It then branchised that, according to the practicality of the Budget, the Department of State felt that the situation had charged. Similarly it was indicated

outing a conversation on Entured Justices & . Sale and ir. Poole that the Department kinds to larger desire to have the Office of the Convinctor union take to render the service in question.

understandings may have arisen. In order to recommonly misunderstanding which may in fact crist, I take pleasure in assuring you again that it would not be the purpose of the Branch which I am in course of setting up under the direction of ir. Files and C. Poole to interfere in questions of policy. Such are of course the province exclusively of the Devertical of State. The new branch would gether information such as the Department of State may desire from the to time on foreign political activities and transit memoranda and reports.

I should be most grateful if you sould let be know as soon as you conveniently chn wiether the State lepartment has in fact changed its nim and so large desires me to undertake this work on its bately. If such is the case, I shall of course make the assist.

cut that I compute failed to be product director given no by the Prosident without allegates to see extent into this field of foreign as included.

On the other hand, if you still sentice as to assist in this patter I shall be most supply to so as In order that we say start, will you class, we say affirmative word to the largest of the seaget, or ladecate your desires in a letter to see

Singeroly.

William In Common

MEMORANDUM TO COLOREL INHOVAN

THOM: DeWitt C. Poole

I spake at length on the phone with further or itself my report on the Berle conversation his restion as a river and vigorous. Regarding the course to it is licence to concurs in the advisability of a letter free year. I full. This letter, he recis, should be a shall seaton in the facts. A draft is attached for your possible statement.

Dunn advised, acreever, against an alens Section of the him a copy of the letter. The prompt deliver of the to the Secretary was all that was needed. Then the the Secretary would then deal with the secretary would then deal with the secretary would be deal with th

Dunn went on to speak very maraly of the state Department's stitude to and the work. He said he hid bear to be a very explicit mandate in this want of the your assistance and to conferred with the your assistance and to conferred with the said he had been to comment on anything Barle and he did went it to be clearly understand to the retary and the Department felt toward the said the said the said the said that the said he was the said to said the said that the said he said the said the said that the said he said he said the said that the said he sai

Poore: For

To to say the says of the

with the foreign-language groups in the United States. All of these problems together must engage the attention of more ous branches of the Government. In order to deal with one quite special, but very important, aspect of the situation, namely, that having directly to do with the field of foreign affairs, the Coordinator of Information has established, at the particular request of the Department of State, a Foreign Nationalities Branch in order to accomplish the following purposes:

- l. Maintaining contact with numerous persons, as dissired by the Department of State, including personalities who
 arrive from abroad with the idea of influencing American option
 ion and governmental policy in the field of foreign affairs;
- 2. Coordinating all available information and preparing reports which will enable the American Government, and the Department of State in particular, to be currently acquainted with sentiment, activities and cross-currents within foreign nationality groups and factions in the United States as these relate to foreign affairs, and the identities and character of their leaders, press and radio as these relate to foreign affairs:
- 3. Coming by these means into closer touch with political conditions outside of the United States and so into a position to create there actively to the best advantage.

al approach to the foreign political situation. The meet for the work which is to be done arises out of the special character of our country. The United States is multi-national. Its perples have living ties with every other considerable population in the world, and share, in varying degree, the innumerable and often conflicting interests, passions and hopes of those populations. Secondly, the United States is governed democratically and is, therefore, highly sensitive to the popular currents and cross-currents which arise from pressure-groups. Thirdly, it is the most powerful single political unit in the world, and the American Government and American opinion are certain to play a decisive role in many foreign situations. The United States has, therefore, become, and will continue increasingly to be, a busy theatre of foreign political activity and intrigue.

Political situations arising within countries outside of the United States are, in numerous cases, projected directly into the United States. It becomes impossible adequately to appraise the American interest in these foreign political situations, with a view to the formulation of policy, without study of the repercussions in the United States, and the study of the repercussions must proceed simultaneously with the study of bonditions and developments abroad. The State Department is present to have studies of this kind made for its benefit and use and to have the work handled in C.C.I. by persons of diplomatic and foreign political experience who are familiar with the States

Department's methods and requirements. The State Department asks for weekly, and even more frequent, reports on particular situations.

In 1918-19 the United States was at a serious discrete tage because adequate information was not available respective foreign political activity of the kind in question or the poses of a number of important foreign personalities and which then active in the United States. It will be recalled that the fundamental Act which led to the founding of the Republic of Czechoslovakia was actually consummated in Fitteburgh, and plans were laid there which were later successfully carried through at the Paris Peace Conference.

Just as foreign-political situations produce strong repercussions in the United States, so it is possible conversely
to take advantage of the multi-national character of the American population in dealing with situations abroad. At an informal gathering in Washington November 26, 1941, of representatives of agencies of the Government concerned with aliens and
first-generation citizens, emphasis was given to the fact that
the nationality groups in the United States provide valuable
opportunities and means "to influence opinion and events in
their native countries abroad." To accomplish this, an astate
political and diplomatic approach is needed. The new Breach can
be itself, with appropriate directives, an efficient agency in
this field and a helpful collaborator with other departments.

Similarly, political information gathered by the Branch

through its contacts with foreign political personalities in the United States and with foreign-language process here contained in all respects with the Foreign information.

it may be observed that foreign personalities arrived in the United States from abroad come first into contact at New York with Oral Intelligence. After Oral Intelligence has obtained its report, the activities of these personalities pass out of its reach and knowledge. The new Branch will then come intelligence and the new Branch, but the activities of the twee will not overlap. They will be complementary.

The scope of the Branch's second task -- the gathering of information and the preparation of reports on opinion and sentiment within foreign-language groups in the United States on questions arising currently in the field of foreign affairs may be judged by the fact that nearly one-third of the whole population of the United States are susceptible potentially to the foreign political influences and activities with which the Branch is concerned. The total number of aliens in the United States approaches five millions. In addition, 18 million extension foreign-born (as counted by the 1930 senses) and 23 million extensions foreign-born (as counted by the 1930 senses) and 23 million extensions.

in accurate touch with the movements of political thought as sentiment on foreign problems within each important foreign language group and faction, as these change with the progress of events abroad and the development of American foreign policy as determined by the President and the Secretary of State.

in the United States (including in all 1700 newspapers and periodicals in 51 languages) must be scanned. A large amount of help can be had in this regard from other governmental offices, and more particularly from Research and Analysis, with which the new Branch will be kept in all respects in intimate coordination.

The work of the new Branch will not touch upon subversive activities or numerous other matters which fall within the province of other agencies of the Government. It will consist exclusively of foreign political study, appraisal and report. Work of this kind in the field in question is not being done at present by any other agency of the Government, nor is any other agency of the Government to undertake this work except the Department of State itself, which for obvious considerations of prudence and practicability desires, and requested, that it be undertaken by the Coordinates of Information.

A minois songeries of problems in material in communication with the foreign-language groups in the material materials of themse problems together must employ the motorials of managers of the Covernment. In motor to deal with the continues of the department, report of the extending namely, that having directly to destite the fluid of foreign affairs, the Coordinator of Information has established at the particular request of the Department of State, Similar Nationalities Franch in order to accomplish the fallowing purposes:

- 1. Maintaining contact with minarous persons, as tonired by the Department of State, including personalities was arrive from abroad with the idea of influencing include oppoion and governmental policy in the field of foreign affaired
- 2. Coordinating all available information of property which will enable the Apariesa Government, and the particular, to be correctly specifically with sentiment, activities and cross-correctly with a continuality groups and factions in the United Section at the relate to foreign affairs, and the identities and continualities and conti
- Sel porditions outside of the Column Service of the Column Service

The new Branch constitution, is effect, a see all salitions all approach to the foreign political mituation. The work which is to be deno arises out of the spatial distriction of our country. The United States is multi-maticall. It property ples have living ties with every other considerable population in the world, and share, in verying tegree, the immensational often conflicting interests, passions and hopes of them produce tions. Secondly, the United States is governed to constitution and is, therefore, highly sensitive to the popular expension and is, therefore, highly sensitive to the popular expension of the american Government and American epinion are serial for play a decisive role in many foreign situations. The faithful states has, therefore, become, and will continue increasingly to be, a busy theatre of foreign political entirity and interestingly.

the United States are, in numerous sassur, projected distances into the United States. It becomes impossible adequately appraise the American interest in these foreign political allegations, with a view to the formulation of policy, pithet deals of the repercussions in the United States, and the Master of the repercussions must proceed simultaneously with the state of the first and developments perced. The formulation of political and the state of this limit was far its benefit of the state and developments perced. The formulation is a second and to have studied or this limit was far its benefit of the state and to have the work handled in O.O. It.

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Department's methods and approximately. The state of the

In 1918-19 the United States was at a color to the transfer was been reliable to the property of the transfer position of the property of a number of important foreign position to the transfer then active in the United States. It will be realised to the fundamental Act which led to the foreign to the plans was noturally companied in fitteen the plans were laid there which were later measurable at the Paris Peace Conference.

percussions in the United States, so it is possible conversity
to take advantage of the multi-national sharester of the from
ioan population in dealing with situations about the formal gathering in Washington November 25, 1925,
tives of agencies of the Government concerned with aligns and
first-generation citizens, captable was given to the nationality groups in the United States waves with
opportunities and seams "to influence opinion and seams in influence opinion and seams the influence opinion and sea

the United States and with females-leading Committees to the United States and with females-leading Committees and with females-leading Committees and the Samuel Leader's Academ Lands Lands tion Service in preparing short-wave breakings from the United States to foreign parts. Closest with the Females in all respects with the Females in Committees.

it may be observed that foreign personalities writing in the Continuous and the Continuous and the continuous and the continuous and the new Erranch, but the societies of the societies pass and the new Erranch, but the societies of the societies will not overlap. They will be complementary.

information and the preparation of reports on epinion of sentiment within foreign-language groups in the Dailor Sentiment within foreign-language groups in the Dailor Sentiment on questions arising currently in the field of purchase of the major by the fact that possily sentime of the purchase of the population of the United States are accountible so that the foreign political influences and sentiments of allows the States approaches five millions. In the lattice is approaches five millions.

Field studies will be continuously required in order to seed in accourate touch with the movements of political the property seed sentiment on foreign problems within each important females. language group and faction, as these change with the project of events abroad and the development of American foreign ballets as determined by the President and the Secretary of Mades.

In the United States (including in all 1700 necessors and including in all respects in including the new Branch will be kept in all respects in include exceeding ation.

The work of the new Branch will not touch upon subscript activities or numerous other matters which fall within the province of other agencies of the Covernment. It will consist exclusively of foreign political study, appreciate and report.

Work of this kind in the field in question is not believed at present by any other agency of the Covernment, has it say other agency of the Covernment to undertake this work except the Department of State itself, which has eviced considerations of prudence and practiceability section.

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/09/23 : CIA-RDP13X00001R000100370009-5

April 23, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL DENOVAN:

The minutes of the meeting of April 15 of the Interdepartmental Committee for Foreign National Ltp.

Problems in Mr. Berle's office at the State Department are transmitted herewith.

Please note the reference to Italian military units on page 2 and the statistics in the appendix relating to percentages of foreign-born in the United States Army. The latter figures might be useful for radio propaganda, but note that they are marked strictly confidential.

John C. Wiley

MINUTES OF NINTH MEETING OF THE INTERDIPART

The ninth meeting of this Committee was held in Mr. Berle's office at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 15...
Those present were the following:

CTATE - A-B - Mr. Berle
PA/D - Mr. Dunn
A-B/H - Mr. Hoskins

OFF - Mr. Eugone Katz

COI - Mr. Poole J.t. Col. Goodfellow

CIAA - Dr. Max Ascoli

OCD - Mr. Jonathan Daniels

WAR - G 1 - Col. Lawhon

JUSTICE - Mr. Frank Crocker

President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice:
- Mr. Cramer

Next Meeting - April 29, 1942

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 29 in Mr. Berle's office.

American-Slav Congress in Detroit - April 25/26.

Mr. Berle referred to repercussions that had developed on the American-Slav Congress and the importance of keeping this Congress on problems relating to the United States and its war efforts. Mr. Poole was asked to check up on plans for a continuing Slav organization and if sto find out who was backing such a plan.

It was noted that Mr. Hull's letter of January 19 1942 to Representative James A. Wright had been videly advertised as an endorsement of the Congress by the State Department without reference to the last paragraph of this letter which reads as follows:

"The full support for our war efforts of American citizens of Clavic descent, who are such a large factor in our production programs in heavy industry, is particularly important. All efforts, however, should aim at minimizing differences in racial background and at stressing the fundamental unity of the country. Provided, therefore that the purpose and program of such a Congress aims at stimulating American unity and is concentrated on this subject and not on controversial problems re-lating to the future of Zastern Europe, it could be of constructive assistance."

Italian Military Units

Col. Goodfellow and Mr. Foole reported on a proliminary discussion with Col. Pacciardi who, as a first estimate, thought that perhaps 300 Italians might be recruited for special COI units. A further and fuller report on this matter will be made at a later meeting.

Foreign Language Press

Mr. Crocker, in Mr. Smith's absence, advised that the Department of Justice had about reached the conclusion that they would not ask for any radical repressive legislation to apply generally to the foreign language press

in this country. They felt that a more satisfactory procedure was the organization of a special interdepertmental committee to consider what action should be taken in regard to individual newspapers on the basis of evidence submitted by the Department of Justice.

"Color" Problem

There followed an extended discussion of the "color" problem, particularly in regard to negroes in the United States, with further reference to the situation in the Caribbean and its repercussions in the Far East.

Mr. Daniels expressed his personal interest in helping in the solution of the negro problem in this country and reported on the limited efforts already undertaken by OCD in this field.

Mr. Cramer, from the angle of Cair employment practice, reported that he was collecting data on the employment of negroes in various government departments as well as in industry, and expected to publicize this information at a later date.

Dr. Ascoli for CIAA referred to the related problem of Mexicans in the south-west of the United States and offered the assistance of his organization for such help as it could give on that phase of the problem.

Col. Lawhon

Col. Lawhon referred to the fact that 10.66 of auc.

Army is colored and stated that the question of the service of megro troops abroad, the development of negro officers and related problems were being given careful consideration by the War Department.

Mr. Berle stressed the importance of a proper solution of this whole problem and suggested that Mr. Cramer and Dr. Ascoli meet with Mr. Faniels to endeaver to work out plans to the end that OCD may become the agency having primary responsibility for action in this field.

Percentage of Foreign-Born in the United States Armed Forces

Mr. Hoskins reported that sufficient figures from
the Army and Navy had now been received that allowed approximate percentages for each racial group in our armed
forces to be estimated. The total showed that 24% of
our armed forces consisted either of men born abroad or
of men one or both of whose parents had been born abroad.
As several members of the committee requested detailed
percentages on each racial group the combined figures for
both Army and Navy are given on a separate attached sheet;
they are furnished to the members of this committee with
the request of the Army that they be kept confidential.

HAROLD B. HOSKINS

Bush Caffet L

NUMBERS AND PERCENTACES OF FOREIGN-BORN NEW, OR MEN THE ONE OR BOTH PARENTS BORN ABROAD, SERVING IN THE VELOCIAL AS OF JANUARY I, 1942

CCUNTRY	NUMBER	TO OF
MORTHWISTERN EUROPE Great Britain Irish Free State Norway Sweden Denmark Iccland Netherlands Belgium Luxemburg Switzerland France	25,706 22,009 10,080 10,312 4,233 145 3,319 1,431 153 2,338 3,367	1.6 1.3 0.7 0.4 0.009 0.009 0.009 0.15 0.3
GENTRAL EUROPE Germany Poland Gzechoslovakia Austria Hungary Yugoslavia	34,543 40,548 15,621 23,485 11,142 6,208	2.Q 2.5 0.8 1.5 0.7 0.4
EASTERN EUROPE Russia Latvia Estania Lithuania Finland Rumania Bulgaria	28,835 618 72 7,842 3,525 2,963 183	1.9 0.04 0.904 0.4 0.2 0.2 0.01
SOUTHERN EUROPE Greece Albania Italy Spain Portugal	4,953 308 75,637 991 2,475	0.3 0.02 4.5 0.06 0.15
ASIA Near East China Japan	2,999 1,222 2,912	0.2 0.07 0.2
AMERICA Mexico Canada South and Central America MISCELLANEOUS	10,305 31,384 1,750 2,582	0.65 1.8 .1 .15
MI SCELLANEOUD TOTAL	398,042	25.9 - 24.0

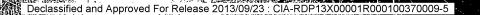
TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL

In Art. 3d Forces as of

January 1, 1942

1,650,000



Lart 9. 1942

TOTAL NOTIFIE FOR COTO FAL DO OTHER

A copy is attached of the minutes of the last meeting of Mr. Berle's Interdepartmental Committee for Foreign Nationality Problems.

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TWETTE C. FOCK

MINUTES OF EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTERDIPART.

The eighth meeting of this Committee was held in Mr. Berle's office at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Moril I.

Those present were the following:

STATE - A-B - Mr. Berls
A-B/H - Mr. Hoskins
Eu - Mr. Cannon

OFF - Mr. Cranston Mr. Eugene Katz

COI - Mr. Poole Lt. Col. Goodfellow

WAR - G-1 - Colonel Lawhon

JUSTICE - Mr. L. M. C. Smith

Next Meeting - Arril 15, 1942

As certain reports will not be ready by April 8, the next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

April 15 in Mr. Berle's office in the State Department.

President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice

Mr. Smith referred to the work of the above

Committee of which Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer is Executive

Secretary and the responsibility of this Committee for

taking action in the field of discrimination with regard

to employment. It was agreed that as Mr. Cramer's

Committee's activities tied in with certain problems

of the Foreign Nationality Committee, Mr. Cramer be

invited to join this Committee and that all inquires or correspondence regarding such discriminations received by the Departments represented on this Committee be referred to Mr. Cramer's Committee for action.

Italian Legion

Colonel Lawhon stated that an answer to Kr. Serial letter of February 27 was being sent in which the War Department went on record as opposed to an Italian Legion with its own officers and under the Italian flag as part of the United States forces. Its stand was based on military objections most of which had been discussed in previous meetings of this Interdepartmental Committee. Mr. Berle suggested that further discussion of this subject be dropped for the moment with the comment that it could of course be brought up again for reconsideration by the President if at a later time political reasons made such action advisable.

In this connection Colonel Goodfellow commented on the possibility of an Italian language unit being recruited at part of COI's special units. It was agreed that Colonel Goodfellow and Ir. Poole should get in touch with Colonel Pacciardi. It was suggested that at a later date a report be made to the Committee.

as to whother, ofter investigation, Colonel Incolardical felt he could recruit 1,000 Italian-speaking med (whether Italians are American citizens or of Italian descent) for an Italian battalian.

It was also noted that Koreans and Chinese, anxious to render military service, could now be referred to COI's special units for enrollment and training in their were suited to this work.

Jewish Army

Mr. Poole submitted a statement in regard to the proposed Jewish army and copies of the statement were given to all members present. It was noted that this Committee had already gone on record as opposed to such a project.

"Color Problems" and Foreign Nationality Groups

position to take administrative responsibility in this field of "color" or foreign nationality problem but was of course in a position to help with information and publicity. It was the opinion of this Committee that OCD was the logical organization to have administrative responsibility. Mr. Hoskins was asked to see Mr. Jonathan Daniels of OCD to urge their taking on this responsibility and to report back results to this Committee.

In the Neuro Tield Mr. Berle mentioned symbol the temporary evallability of Mr. L. A. Welton, United States Minister to Liberia, may on leave in this country. It was agreed that Mr. Walton should see Mr. MacLeish and Mr. Daniels to discuss any aid he could give either of these organizations in regard

Activities of OFF

to the Negro problem.

Er. Cranston reported on the activities of OFF in this field and advised that his organization was now supplying American news particularly in regard to Government activities in 27 languages to the foreign language newspapers of the United States.

hr. Barle suggested that OFF consider supplying these foreign language newspears with European news as well in order to eliminate the necessity of their having to use information from Axis news againsts which naturally contained propagands as well as mis-information.

Foreign Language Press in the United States

Mr. Smith of Justice outlined some of the problems of the foreign language press in the United Status and esked for suggestions from any members of this Committee on policies that might be adopted to issue the Tuitest possible interest for our war efforts from this grand of newspapers.

HAROLD B

