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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Acting ^{Chief} Director, Central Planning Staff DATE: 24 May 1946

FROM : Security Branch

SUBJECT: Censorship Planning

Refs: a. Central Planning Staff Planning Directives 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d.
 b. Confidential Memorandum, Director of Censorship, dated 24 August 1945,
 Subject: "A Basis for Censorship Planning" (Enclosure 1).
 c. N.I.A. Directive No. 1, dated 8 February 1946.

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in Reference a, an initial study of Reference b, as well as other factors affecting censorship planning, has been completed by this Branch.

25X1A

2. Reference b was submitted by [REDACTED] to the President by letter of transmittal, dated 24 August 1945. The Secretary of the N.I.A. has informed the undersigned that, subsequently, the Executive Branch instructed the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to study the matter and recommend appropriate action. The Bureau of the Budget has held the matter in abeyance to date as it feels that Reference b should be sent to the National Intelligence Authority for consideration and preparation of recommended action when the N.I.A. is prepared to assume responsibility therefor.

3. a. Essentially, Reference b, which broadly outlines suggested censorship policies and administrative procedures to be utilized in the event of a future state of emergency or war, proposes that censorship planning be resumed without delay and that a continuing National Censorship Planning Commission be created to fulfill that planning responsibility. (see page 6, Reference b)

b. Particular emphasis is placed in Reference b upon the non-existence of a national, coordinated censorship plan prior to World War II which imposed unnecessary handicaps and costly delays in the organization and efficient operation of wartime censorship. Other factors which adversely affected national security in the field of censorship at the outbreak of war were:

(1) Separate and, in some respects, contradictory censorship policies of the War and Navy Departments.

(2) Failure to plan for complete and comprehensive coverage of all aspects of censorship, such as press, broadcasting, exports and imports, and technical operations.

(3) Absence of files of basic data covering past censorship experience, both foreign and domestic.

(4) Lack of even a nucleus of trained, key, censorship specialist personnel.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(5) Non-availability of requisite specialized equipment for censorship operations.

c. Reference b discusses in detail:

(1) The recommended membership of a National Censorship Planning Commission together with its suggested responsibilities and functions.

(2) The proper organization and conduct of censorship during any future emergency or war, such as: the scope and policy of any future Office of Censorship; the legal authority for censorship; the organization chart of the Office of Censorship; personnel requirements and functions; successive measures to be implemented when establishing censorship; and the termination of censorship at the end of hostilities.

4. a. War Department activity in censorship planning since the termination of the hostilities has been confined to:

(1) Completion and publication of histories of War Department Military and Civil Censorship operations during World War II.

(2) Preparation of a proposed War Department Manual on Civil Censorship which is now receiving staff concurrence and will be published shortly as a War Department Training Manual.

(3) Preparation of a proposed War Department Manual on Prisoner of War Censorship which, after final approval, will be published as a War Department Training Manual.

(4) Revision of Field Manual 30-28, subject: Military Censorship. This revision is presently in work.

b. The Office of the Chief Military and Civil Censor, under the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, Army Service Forces, has been the agency engaged in the above activity. This office is now in the process of being transferred to the Office of the Director of Intelligence, War Department and will eventually be composed of one officer and three civilians. The Chief Military and Civil Censor will, under the Director of Intelligence of the War Department, be responsible for:

(1) Continuing planning pertaining to War Department policies and procedures for Military and Civil Censorship operations under the War Department.

(2) Exercising staff supervision of the operations of the Civil Censorship Detachments in the U. S. Zones of Occupation of Germany and Japan.

(3) Disseminating censorship submission slips received from Civil Censorship Detachments in the U. S. Zones of Occupation of Germany and Japan to interested agencies.

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5. Captain Wharton, OPR, Navy Department, has informed the undersigned that the Navy Department censorship planning activity since the end of the war has been similar to that conducted by the War Department, except that emphasis has been placed on telecommunications censorship matters, as well as upon censorship procedures affecting naval personnel. Captain Wharton further states that the Navy Department will, in the near future, forward its criticisms of Reference b to the Central Intelligence Group, exception being taken to the Price recommendations that the War and Navy Departments should earmark personnel during peacetime to be assigned to an Office of Censorship when established, and that the Office of Censorship should be a civilian agency.

6. It is considered that a coordinated planning program for censorship, a counterintelligence or security function, should be initiated under the staff supervision of the Security Branch, Central Planning Staff, Central Intelligence Group, under the National Intelligence Authority. Specific authority for the Director of Central Intelligence, under the N.I.A., to enter into this field of activity is believed contained in paragraph 3 of the Enclosure to Reference c.

7. It is recommended that the undersigned be directed to orally request the Secretary, N.I.A. to informally advise the Director of the Bureau of the Budget that the N.I.A. is now prepared to receive and study Reference b with a view to recommending such action thereon as may be appropriate.

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Colonel, U. S. Army

Enclosure
Conf. Memo dtd 24 Aug 45,
(Ref b)

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