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25 April 1946

Cited in Darling III / 19(1)

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Chief, Central Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Request for Editorial Assistance on Defense Project

REFERENCES:

(a) Memorandum on Defense Project, 4 March 1946, from Colonel [REDACTED]

(b) Memorandum, same subject, 10 April 1946, from Acting Chief, Central Planning Staff, with attached Memorandum and Draft Directive for the Intelligence Advisory Board.

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1. Problem: To define the responsibility and function of C.I.G. in connection with Defense Project.

2. Facts:

a. The Policy and Planning Committee and the Working Committee described in reference (a) above, have been at work for several weeks. Colonel Perry has served as Coordinator on both committees. The draft directive, reference (b) above, is intended to formalize C.I.G. sponsorship of the project, and the accompanying memorandum states that the coordinator for the Working Committee should be from the Central Reports Staff.

b. The Working Committee is proceeding with the allocation of the fundamental research to the appropriate agency for each main topic, and is providing for the use by such agency of the materials available in the other agencies.

c. In the opinion of the Policy and Planning Committee and the Working Committee, which met together on 19 April 1946, editorial supervision is needed for the effective completion of the project, for the

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purpose of providing active and continuous coordination, of correlating the results produced under the different sub-headings, of insuring a uniform integrated product, etc.

d. It was stated at the meeting just referred to that owing to shortages of personnel in the participating agencies, such editorial personnel cannot be provided by them. The committees therefore decided to ask C.I.G. to provide three coordinating editors (a chief and two assistants). A formal request to that effect will shortly reach this office.

e. The Acting Chief, Central Reports Staff says that at present he has no personnel available to meet this request.

3. Discussion:

a. Since all C.I.G. personnel are furnished by the participating agencies, it is unrealistic for the agencies to ask for personnel which are not at present in C.I.G. and which they cannot themselves supply to C.I.G.

b. More fundamentally there is the question whether C.I.G., if it had suitable personnel, should make them available for such a purpose. Insofar as the editors will be coordinators, the responsibility of C.I.G. would be fairly clear. Insofar as they are to be pure editors, C.I.G. responsibility would have to be assumed under a broad interpretation of the President's Directive to "accomplish the correlation and evaluation of intelligence relating to the national security", (paragraph 3a), and

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and to "perform for the benefit of said intelligence agencies such services of common concern as the National Intelligence Authority determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally", (paragraph 3c).

c. Furthermore, it is suggested that to supply the editors who correlate and edit the product of intelligence research involves the assuming by C.I.G. of some degree of responsibility for the results of research which has been performed by other agencies.

d. Finally, there is the question of precedents. There will presumably be other high priority projects involving similar coordination and editorial work, and very possibly there will be several such projects under way at the same time. If such is the case, and C.I.G. accepts a responsibility for editorial coordination, there will be a drain on Central Reports Staff personnel which its present T/O can hardly sustain.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations:

a. The questions here concern another staff section of C.I.G. and whether and how far C.I.G. shall enter the field of coordination and correlation at the working level.

b. It is therefore recommended:

That before action is taken or recommended on the request of the Policy and Planning Committee of Defense Project, the problem be discussed at a meeting of:

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Acting Chief, Central Planning Staff

Acting Deputy Chief, Central Planning Staff

~~Acting Chief, Central Reports Staff~~

Acting Chief, Policy and Review Branch

Representative of Intelligence Branch

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Intelligence Branch

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