

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : [REDACTED]
Through : Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence
25X1A FROM : [REDACTED]

DATE: 16 June 1952

SUBJECT: Answers to your queries in memo dated 9 June 1952

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1. The files of ORE pertaining to the early history of that office are now with [REDACTED] now working under Dr. Darling.

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[REDACTED] may be able to supply the facts better than I can. The answers here are incomplete. I shall work on them later.

2. "In a chart of ORE, 22 July 1946, there is a box showing a technical and scientific branch. When was this organized? What were its functions? How large a staff?"

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In this early period the branch consisted apparently of two men, [REDACTED] These two men were advisers on scientific intelligence, liaison men with other agencies.

3. "In a chart of ORE, 1 July 1947, the branch had now grown to 6 divisions. Are there any comments on its progress?"

I have no definite information. Apparently [REDACTED] was acting chief of the branch and was beginning to recruit.

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4. "3 October 1946, the post of Chief, Scientific Branch was offered to [REDACTED] It does not appear that he took the job. Why?"

I have no information. Suggest the matter be dropped.

5. "30 October 1947, [REDACTED] appears to have been Chief, Scientific Branch. When was he appointed? How long did he hold the post? Who succeeded him?"

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[REDACTED] entered on duty as Chief, Scientific Branch on 1 October 1947. He resigned in December 1948.

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[REDACTED] succeeded him, entering on duty on or about 1 January 1948. He resigned 28 February 1950.

6. "An agreement was made between JRDB and CIG dated 10 January 1947 on cooperation in the field of Scientific Intelligence. In March 1948, DCI asked to be released from this agreement. Why?"

The agreement was between JRDB and CIG. CIA was created later in 1947. I quote:

"It will be noted that under the law [National Security Act, 1947] of (sic) Central Intelligence Agency is one of three agencies established for the coordination of National Security; and that in its field -- intelligence -- as delimited by the Act, the Central Intelligence Agency is specifically charged with the duty of coordinating the activities of the several Government Departments and Agencies including those of the National Military Establishment. It follows, therefore, that there appears to be no need for a fundamental working agreement between the Research and Development Board and the Central Intelligence Agency as separate and distinct from any of the other elements of the National Military Establishment." _/

_/ Memo: Theodore Babbit, Asst. Director, Reports and Estimates, to D/CI, 15 March 1948, 1st endorsement on Memo: [REDACTED] Chief, Scientific Branch, ORE, to D/CI. 11 March 1948: File RDB - CIA Relationship, Adm-Office.

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7. "On 28 March 1947 a memorandum was issued by General Wright instructing A/D ORE to establish a Nuclear Energy Group within ORE. What had become of the personnel transferred to CIA on 18 February 1947?"

The Manhattan Project Foreign Intelligence Section was transferred on 18 February 1947 to CIA where it was placed in the office of the Director of Intelligence. The MPFIS was the Nuclear Energy Group mentioned in General Wright's memorandum of 28 March 1947. It became part of the Scientific Branch. On 5 March 1948, the Nuclear Energy Group was transferred to OSO.

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8. "Why was the group divorced from other scientific efforts to collect and coordinate intelligence information?"

25X1A It was not divorced from "other scientific efforts."

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[REDACTED] was liaison officer between the group and the Scientific Branch. The NEG was, in the first place, organized quite differently from the divisions of the Scientific Branch; it was responsible for all phases of atomic energy from the atom to the finished product. The Scientific Branch was working largely in the field of basic research. In the second place, NEG had very sensitive problems of security. "Restricted data," for example, required a Q clearance for every one concerned with the project. To preserve security, it was simpler to remove the NEG to a covert office than to set up special barriers around it.