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10 October 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: SecNav's Proposed Dinner with the Heads of Government Intelligence Agencies.

1. In loyalty to the Secretary, I think I should inform you of certain aspects of the Secretary's intention to ask Mr. McCormack, Mr. Hoover, General Bissell and myself to dinner to discuss a proposed national intelligence agency.
2. The President, in a letter to the Secretary of State, has directed the latter to take the lead in developing a comprehensive and coordinated foreign intelligence program for all Federal agencies concerned with that type of activity, and suggested it be done through the creation of an interdepartmental group heading up under the State Department.
3. The Secretary of the Navy has forwarded to the Secretary of State JCS 1181/5 which recommends a national intelligence agency under the Secretaries of State, War and Navy.
4. It, therefore, seems appropriate that official consultation on this matter should be:
  - (a) On Cabinet level.
  - (b) Initiated by the Secretary of State.
5. If this thought is borne in mind, I believe that an informal social gathering such as the Secretary has in mind would not be inappropriate. However, I recommend that:
  - (a) The Secretary first clear with the Cabinet heads who are the superiors of the officials to be invited.
  - (b) It be understood that the purpose of the meeting is to inform those present of the others' personal philosophy and of the forces at play within the government pertaining to a national intelligence agency.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (Cont'd)

- (c) That no commitments be expected of anyone present, and that all views expressed be considered strictly unofficial and off the record.
6. Within the past ten days Brig. Gen. Magruder, head of the Strategic Services Unit of the War Department, proposed an informal interim committee to effect liaison as well as to discuss and prepare recommendations with respect to cooperation in intelligence matters arising from the implementation of the Executive Order transferring OSS functions to the State and War Departments. In reply to this proposal Mr. McCormack, Special Assistant for Research and Intelligence in the Department of State, stated that he anticipates that the Secretary of State will initiate action looking toward the creation of a group to function on the problem of a government-wide intelligence program and that, in the meantime, he prefers to conduct liaison directly with G-2, MIS and ONI.
7. Mr. Hoover is not in favor of a national intelligence agency. Also, there probably will be considerable veiled antagonism among some of the other proposed guests. It would be an interesting, but perhaps somewhat un-congenial, meeting.
8. To get all sides of the story, General Magruder, head of the Strategic Services Unit under the Assistant Secretary of War, might be included.

THOS. B. INGLIS  
Acting Chief of Naval Intelligence.

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