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28 March 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

C.I.G. DIRECTIVE NO. 4

SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS
IN THE UNITED STATES

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence, with the
unanimous concurrence of the Intelligence Advisory Board

1. By memorandum of 20 February 1946, Mr. McCormack (Special Assistant to the Secretary of State in charge of Research and Intelligence)* suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take under advisement the matter of determining what coverage of the Foreign Language Press in the United States is desirable for intelligence purposes and how the coverage should be obtained. This matter falls logically under the provisions of paragraph 4 b, N.I.A, Directive No. 2. The following paragraphs outline the provisions which will govern this survey.

2. The survey will include an examination of all facilities for covering the Foreign Language Press in the United States in order to determine:

- a. The extent of coverage by existing facilities;
- b. The adequacy of the existing coverage;
- c. The extent of duplication of effort in the current coverage;
- d. The availability of trained, competent personnel;
- e. The suitability of the present material produced by existing facilities;
- f. The suitability of present dissemination of material processed by existing facilities.

* See Enclosure

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3. The survey will include, finally, an examination of the question as to whether the desired end will be served better if the effort be distributed, or if it be centralized; and if centralized, what agency of the Government should be charged with it.

4. The Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., will conduct the survey. It will be authorized to call for personnel indicated in paragraph 5, below, to appear and give such oral or written reports as may be required for purposes of this survey.

5. Each member of the Intelligence Advisory Board will designate a representative to arrange details with the Information Branch, Central Planning Staff, and to furnish the C.I.G. a list of personnel authorized to give information for purposes of the survey. The designation of appropriate contact personnel in other Federal agencies will be arranged for as necessary.

6. The Central Planning Staff will submit its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence. He will then submit appropriate recommendations to the National Intelligence Authority, after concurrence or comment by the Intelligence Advisory Board.

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E N C L O S U R E

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL SOUERS

SUBJECT: Intelligence from Foreign Language Press in the United States.

1. There are more than 1,000 foreign language newspapers and magazines in the United States. They serve a large minority of the population, since according to the 1940 census there were then 11,500,000 persons of foreign birth and some 23,000,000 of foreign parentage in this country, and 22,000,000 persons reported some language other than English as their mother tongue.

2. The foreign language papers in this country are an important source of both foreign and domestic intelligence. They receive information from correspondents abroad and by mail from individuals abroad, and from foreign personalities who come to this country. They frequently carry information not available in the English language press. They are particularly a source of information about personalities and political movements in foreign countries in advance of the time when such policies and movements attract enough attention to get into the English language press or into other usual sources of information.

3. The foreign language papers reflect political attitudes and controversies in foreign countries, especially the attitudes of opposition groups, who sometimes have their principal base and their principal medium of expression in the United States.

4. Attitudes of foreign language groups in the United States have to be taken into account in the conduct of foreign relations, in that powerful minorities in the United States can influence public opinion and thereby limit the freedom of the government in dealing with foreign problems. Foreign issues are sometimes matters of violent agitation in this country, as witness the steady stream of pro-Soviet and anti-Soviet propaganda that is carried on by Polish, Lithuanian, Slovakian, Rumanian, Hungarian, Croatian and Serb newspapers in this country.

5. In the conduct of our information program for foreign countries, it is important to know the issues that are being debated in the corresponding foreign language press in this country.

6. Just prior to and during the war various government agencies concerned themselves with the foreign language press. The Department of Justice had a unit which read the publications from primarily the security standpoint. The counter-intelligence units of the Armed Forces did something along the same line. But the only attempt at comprehensive coverage