

24 August

*written by
Strombach*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION:

Subject: Justification for Post-War Secret Intelligence

A. Introduction:

1. The justification for post-war secret intelligence on the part of G-2, War Department General Staff, can be summed up as analogous to the justification for the maintenance of adequate national defense. At the end of this war the United States will find itself the richest and most powerful country in the world with the greatest wealth and power in the world. As a result, based on the experience of history, the United States will be the object of jealousy and nations may band together to compensate by secret alliances for the balance of power which has always been a factor in the world after all great wars. The only thing to do for both the preservation of peace and for the protection of the United States is to provide for absolute national defense by superior intelligence.

2. The post-war period will develop political and commercial rivalry between two great powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. This rivalry will not merely be between two great nations but will represent a battle to the death of opposite ideologies in which all of the "have-nots" in the world may follow Russia against the "haves". Russia maintains and operates a Secret Intelligence system throughout the world not only for the purpose of obtaining information but to nurture and spread an ideology opposite to that of the United States. An authentic report places one thousand Soviet secret agents in Norway alone. Secret Intelligence on our part is therefore unavoidable and necessary in self-protection.

3. Before the advent of World War II our diplomatic, military and naval strategists believed we had certain natural boundaries of defense which at least gave us considerable time to prepare for war. Our allies and our friends did our Secret Intelligence work for us, since we found that what they learned,

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we learned, and that the information gave us sufficient warning. However, we no longer can depend on the Secret Intelligence of England and of France because of the modern concept of time and because the next war may realign the nations of the world into a new mosaic. Judging the future by the past, it is possible that some of the victors of today may ally themselves with the vanquished or that some of the victors of today will combine against a richer and more powerful partner.

4. The progress of science and its application to war has never been so marked as in the last five years. In the future, secret intelligence will be needed to obtain information on new weapons and new facilities which scientists will develop that may well revolutionize the concepts of future warfare. These scientific inventions and developments will of course be unavailable to normal intelligence.

5. The British Empire is duly grateful that our lend lease and our help came in the nick of time. Yet they have already stopped treating us as allies in some respects. Proof can be furnished that in the last six months the British forbid the further importation of leather belting from the United States to India and insisted that leather be imported to India only from England, although the leather in England is lend-lease leather. In the last year no visa is granted an American business man going to or passing through any part of the British Empire unless the British Board of Trade agrees it is good for British business. The British and the United States agreed to keep insurance men out of North Africa, yet the British sent insurance men there in uniform.

B. An Efficient and Independent Secret Intelligence is Vital:

1. The future of the United States in its present pre-victory period, the post-war period and the period thereafter is definitely based on both the efficiency and the independence of its secret intelligence. By secret intelligence is meant the top secret operations of intelligence which must be carefully screened, maintain absolute internal security of the highest type, and which supply a large proportion of the really "hot" information: (1) secret intercept of communications of other countries and cryptanalysis organizations or "dark chambers"; and, (2) Espionage, both, (a) direct -- (independent secret agents) and (b) indirect -- (secret use of international commercial organizations for high level intelligence purposes). The American democratic spirit and mentality has never comprehended or considered secret intelligence in the past except in time of war and then usually only as a temporary expedient to be solved by new

and rapid effort usually based on personal or political influences and efforts rather than in conjunction with the trained innominate men of the military and the State Department. The horrible examples of the Civil War Pinkertons and Colonel Baker, the absolute non-existence of secret intelligence going into or coming out of the last world war and the termination of the dark chamber during the peace and disarmament conferences between the last war and this one are too well-known to need comment.

2. From the days of the Bible to the present, secret intelligence and espionage has been needed to save nations and lives as well as unfortunately being a major tool in the hands of ambitious tyrants. Mithridates before the advent of Christ almost conquered the then known world by methods very similar to Hitler and by an outstanding secret intelligence in which he himself was a major actor. Today, a whisper in Moscow can be heard in a fraction of a second in the Argentine or the Antipodes; a spoken message can be sent several times around the world from Berlin or London to one hundred million radio receivers and a traveler or a thousand super-bombers can fly from one continent to another in a few hours.

3. When the world has become that small, the United States can no longer isolate itself and therefore must concern itself with the economic, commercial, political, ideological, military, naval and air information, not as publicized by the country concerned or as colored by other countries, but realistically and as weighed directly for or against the United States and American interests. In addition, normal intelligence collected by accredited intelligence agencies, military attaches, observers, etc., is today no longer sufficient and combat intelligence, tomorrow, shall only begin after the next war has started. If we are not careful we are likely to find that we have helped win the present war only to be sold down the river by England, Russia, or China; hated by France or Poland; plotted against by Argentina or Spain. Today also there is the greatest internal danger in the history of our country as radical ideology is rampant throughout the world.

C. Secret Intelligence (Espionage) Should Be a Function of M.I.S.:

1. Following the experience of many centuries, Secret Intelligence activities should be conducted under the War Department (W.D.G.S.) and the State Department (F.C.). It should be controlled directly by old-line government agencies. It should have a direct tie-up with military intelligence so that the Secret Intelligence activities may be properly correlated and evaluated with normal intelligence and with the Foreign Correlation Branch of the

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State Department whose duties are analogous to the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department. The coordination of espionage, particularly in peacetime, should be controlled by the Intelligence Division of the War Department and the Foreign Correlation Department of the State Department and should not in any way be connected with politics, politicians or subject to the vicissitudes of interference of any temporary agencies initiated by political influence or a particular administration. Action in peacetime, based on results of secret intelligence, is: (1) diplomatic, by the State Department, and (2) military, by the War Department.

2. The gathering of secret intelligence is a highly specialized task calling for especially trained personnel. It is a professional and not an amateur undertaking calling for the highest type of discipline and devotion to duty and it naturally falls within the functions of the military forces. It is especially based on experience and not based on manuals, books, laws or rules, nor on reputation or publicity.

3. Espionage activity in the post-war period should not be conducted by the Office of Strategic Services. This agency, due to its wartime creation and purpose, had to grow rapidly and has as a consequence been trained, integrated and correlated with various secret intelligence services of countries now our allies but whose future position, following the experience of history, cannot be known. Proof can be supplied that with the possible exception of the Far East and Latin America, the British practically know every fact about every net, system, organization and agent of the O.S.S. throughout the world. Proof can be supplied that leaks in American information to the British (commercial and otherwise) have been accomplished with the O.S.S. as an inadvertent conduit. In Latin America, the O.S.S. have no secret intelligence activity by a directive of the President, and in the Far East the O.S.S. is working closely with Chiang Kai-Shek's own secret intelligence service and on a basis refused by M.I.S. (S.S.S.), and therefore is in no way independent and secure for the post-war period. As a result, the work of the O.S.S. during the war for which it was created is no doubt excellent, but it cannot be depended upon to accomplish the true mission of secret intelligence in the period to come.

4. Another reason why the O.S.S. cannot fill the requirements outlined is that it is fairly well-established that as the war is over, it, like many so-called New Deal Executive Agencies, will be under political fire and will be investigated by at least one Congressional or Senatorial Committee. It is believed evidence can be submitted to substantiate this statement. Such an investigation

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which can be probably prevented during the war or at least during the present administration, will eventually further compromise the security and the usefulness of this agency in the secret intelligence field.

D. Coverage and Indoctrination Branch:

1. The Coverage and Indoctrination Branch (Special Service Section) was created late in 1942 to carry on secret intelligence activities in the field of espionage in G-2. It has in a great measure been very restricted in its directives, but its steady progress and results obtained furnish a sound foundation for carrying on the secret intelligence work of the Military Intelligence Service in the post-war period.

E. Post War Organization of the Coverage and Indoctrination Branch:

1. It is recommended that the Coverage and Indoctrination Branch, (Special Service Section), Military Intelligence Service, be allowed to develop at a slightly more rapid pace during the present pre-victory period. Then, it is recommended that at the proper time, synchronized with the beginning of the Demobilization, to be called Y Day, the Coverage and Indoctrination Branch be terminated and that a bureau be carefully organized which will be buried and covered under commercial and business fronts. Experienced and close liaison will be maintained by secure and covered means between this Bureau and the Military Intelligence Service and the State Department, with control vested in the Director of Information of the Military Intelligence Service. It is recommended that the Coverage and Indoctrination Branch attain even greater anonymity than presently enjoyed prior to Y Day. Detailed plans for the continuance, development and maintenance of this organization in its several stages both before and after Y Day will be duly submitted after careful study now in process and subject to the approval of the premise of this memorandum, namely that the Military Intelligence Service shall maintain secret intelligence (espionage) in the post-war period. (Plans for intercept and cryptanalysis operations in the post-war period are without doubt being taken care of by the Signal Corps, under the direction of M.I.S., and are not here involved).

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