

HR-54

Counter Espionage Center
1949-1953

23 March 1950

TO: Advisory Council
FROM: STC *wbh*
SUBJECT: Information from JCIC Requested by Commander Rufus L. Taylor (Memo to the Advisory Council, 27 October 1949)

*See also
about
Hans
JAC*

1. Attached, pursuant to Commander Taylor's request, is a 10-page memorandum reflecting the information presently contained in the files of the JCIC which appears to bear on his request. I have made no effort to supplement this material from the files of OSO. In connection with this matter, I wish to point out again that Commander Taylor's request is of such a nature that it is difficult for us to honor it in OSO and still be consistent with our accepted principles of counterespionage operations and controls. You will note that Commander Taylor's request asks for the most specific details concerning counterespionage matters and Soviet intelligence operations, which normally we do not and cannot disseminate except in a very restricted fashion and on the basis of a most strictly construed need to know. I fail to perceive any valid need to know on the part of the ONI in connection with certain phases of Commander Taylor's request, nor am I aware of any effective action which the ONI can take within their jurisdiction on a number of categories of information which Commander Taylor has requested.

2. I am not raising these questions with regard to the information contained in the files of the JCIC, in view of the agreed Naval participation in that installation. I must very definitely raise these questions, however, as far as any general answer to these requests is concerned, based on operationally-procured OSO information. This and other requests which have been received from Commander Taylor, as I have pointed out to you previously, raise in our minds in OSO very definite questions as to his understanding of the functions of the JCIC, and particularly as to the apparent conflict between his understanding of those functions and our own. As a matter of basic policy, counterespionage information is not considered the proper subject for shot-gun distribution. In addition, the honoring of a number of requests paralleling those which have been received in recent months from Commander Taylor

Vol I, Rg 54

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involves a volume of work which I doubt is justified on the basis of any use which can be made of the information by the Office of Naval Intelligence.

3. I feel strongly that the type of request referred to should be made in a slightly different fashion, possibly through different channels, and should involve requests not for full information extracted from available files, but for finished intelligence on pertinent counterespionage problems, when possible and practicable. Your specific attention is directed to the fact that the preparation, copying and transmittal of portions of the information in the attached summary involve at least pro forma violations of the restrictions placed on the handling of some of the intelligence concerned.

Action: Your views on the above points would be greatly appreciated and I should like to reiterate my previous suggestions that the entire handling of such requests be made the subject of appropriate personal discussion with Commander Taylor.

Ref. No. SO DB-23560

Attachment:

Memo - Sov Int Cap in Iran & Persian Gulf Area

copy
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enclosure sent to Taylor. 3/28/50
JJZ