

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Office of Naval Intelligence
Washington

In reply refer to
Op-16-B
(SC)A8-5
A3-1/A8-5
Serial No. 026816

Declassified / Downgrade to

Auth: ... EO 12958 January 16, 1941

Date: 21 SEP 98 Unit: NCFS 22

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Commandants, All Naval Districts;
Commandant, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.;
Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;
Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Guam;
Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Tutuila, Samoa.

Subject: Espionage, Counter-espionage, Sabotage, Subversive Activities
and Violations of the Neutrality Laws.

Reference: (a) CNO conf. ltr. Op-16-B-3, A2-8, (SC)A8-5, Serial No.
0102916, dated July 6, 1940.
(b) CNO conf. ltr. Op-16-B, (SC)A8-5, A3-1/A8-5, Serial No.
04816, dated January 8, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Federal Bureau of Investigation letter to all law-enforcement
officials, dated September 6, 1939; Copy of.
(B) Federal Bureau of Investigation bulletin No. 1, dated
January 2, 1941; Copy of.

1. Enclosure (A) is a copy of an unclassified letter sent by the
Federal Bureau of Investigation to all law-enforcement officials, stating
that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been ordered to take charge of
investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage and violations
of neutrality regulations. This caused some confusion among civil law-
enforcement officials as to whether or not to turn over to the Navy and the
Army information which was of primary interest to these Services..

2. Enclosure (B), prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation
as a modification of the instructions contained in enclosure (A), has been
sent to all Special Agents in Charge of Federal Bureau of Investigation
Field Divisions. It will be noted that while enclosure (B) is not addressed
to all law-enforcement officials as was done in the case of enclosure (A),
Special Agents in Charge of Field Divisions have been directed to bring the
bulletin to the attention of all law-enforcement officials in their Districts.

Jules James
Jules James,
By direction.

Distribution:
Addressees (5)
CinCUS (5)

21

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 78643

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

September 6, 1939

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

For your information, the following formal statement was today issued by the President of the United States:

"The Attorney General has been requested by me to instruct the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice to take charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage, and violations of the neutrality regulations.

This task must be conducted in a comprehensive and effective manner on a national basis, and all information must be carefully sifted out and correlated in order to avoid confusion and irresponsibility.

To this end I request all police officers, sheriffs, and all other law enforcement officers in the United States promptly to turn over to the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information obtained by them relating to espionage, counterespionage, sabotage, subversive activities and violations of the neutrality laws."

I am bringing this statement to your attention in order that if you have not already been advised of the President's desires in the handling of cases of the type above enumerated, you may be informed concerning the Federal Government's program. I am confident that you will cooperate in this matter by immediately notifying the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of any information received relating to cases in the above classifications.

Declassified / Downgrade to Sincerely yours,

Auth: ED 12958 (Sgd.) J. E. Hoover

Date: 21 SEP 98 Unit: NOV 5 22 John Edgar Hoover
Director

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1-2-41
BUREAU BULLETIN NO. 1
First Series 1941

(D) WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS INFORMATION. -- It is desired that you bring to the attention of all law enforcement officers in your district through appropriate channels as promptly as possible, the following statement:

Law enforcement officials are encouraged to turn over direct to representatives of the War and Navy Departments information which is of primary interest to those departments. From time to time when law enforcement officers receive information which relates specifically to or is of primary interest to the Military or Naval organizations, they should turn this information over immediately to the nearest officer of the War or Navy Department.

Information that is of primary interest to the War and Navy Departments includes matters pertaining to personnel of those departments, including both uniformed and civilian personnel; subject matter pertaining to the Military and Naval establishments; suspicious or unusual movements or activities of foreign aircraft and shipping, including alien-manned fishing craft and Military and Naval information regarding foreign armies and navies.

The foregoing types of information, even though turned over to representatives of the War and Navy Departments, should also be transmitted to the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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