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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

13 May 1949

MEMORANDUM TO: CHIEF, OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF NAVY

ATTENTION : Mr. R. S. F. Starr

SUBJECT : CIA-Navy Exploitation of Steamship Companies and Shipmasters

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify ONI and Contact Branch responsibilities in the joint CIA-Navy exploitation of steamship companies and shipmasters and to make our respective interests in those sources a matter of record.

2. In accordance with NSCID-7, CIA (Contact Branch) is charged with the responsibility of exploiting non-Governmental sources for foreign positive intelligence. Steamship companies fall in this category, of course, but as they and their shipmasters also have a considerable potential on Navy departmental intelligence and present a unique problem to the extent that their ships often call at ports other than the home port, it is appreciated that special coordination, as outlined below, is needed:

- (a) The Contact Branch of CIA will assume full responsibility for exploiting steamship companies for foreign positive intelligence, but in its exploitation, will specifically avoid exploiting U. S. shipmasters, without making a prior check with the Navy.
- (b) The Navy will exploit U. S. shipmasters for departmental intelligence and may, as an extension of such exploitation, interrogate other members of the ship's company for such intelligence.
- (c) The Contact Branch may, with the cognizance of the shipping firm involved, exploit members of the ship's company, other than the master, for foreign positive intelligence without advising the Navy.
- (d) If the Contact Branch wishes to exploit a shipmaster for foreign positive intelligence, the Branch will check with the Navy, prior to taking action.
- (e) If the Navy wishes to exploit a shipping company for departmental intelligence, it will check with the Contact Branch, prior to taking action.

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2. It is understood that coordination in the field will be handled between the Contact Branch Field Office and the District Intelligence Office in the area in which the head office of the shipping company concerned is located. The Navy may, of course, interrogate a U. S. shipmaster in a port outside of the area covered by the Contact Branch Field Office having jurisdiction; but in such cases it is requested that, after the interrogation, the District Intelligence Office having jurisdiction be informed that the interrogation has taken place. It is also requested that the DIO having jurisdiction be informed by the interrogator whether or not, in his estimation, the shipmaster, or any member of the ship's company, should be exploited for foreign positive intelligence; the DIO will then pass this information to the cognizant Contact Branch Field Office. If the shipmaster has volunteered foreign positive intelligence, the report containing that intelligence should be referred immediately to the Contact Branch Field Office having jurisdiction, and the Navy should insure that the report is not disseminated outside the Navy. The Contact Branch Field Office will conduct any further interrogation that is necessary and will submit the entire report as an OO-B report. When an OO-B based on a DIO report is disseminated, specific reference will be made to its origin, to avoid the possibility of the Navy's regarding the OO-B as corroboration of its information.

3. It is recognized that foreign shipmasters present an entirely different problem, because they cannot be exploited by the Navy, and the shipping companies with foreign ownership which would normally control such ships are not proper targets for Contact Branch exploitation. Methods of intermediary exploitation are being explored, however, and as soon as a suitable plan can be put into operation you will be advised, in order that you may submit pertinent departmental intelligence requirements for exploitation of foreign shipmasters.

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