

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-16-FN

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12 July 1944

MEMORANDUM

From: Op-16-1-F.

To: The Director.

Via: Op-16-1-B. *SSP*
Op-16-1. *Walt*

Subj: Invitation to DNI to Address Army Service Forces Intelligence Conference 1545 to 1600, 19 July 1944, in New York.

Ref: (a) War Department, ASF, Chief of Staff ltr to DNI, 4 July 1944, same subject.

1. In response to covering notes of comment on reference (a) a draft of a fifteen minute talk on the subject requested by Major General Styer is attached.
2. Liaisons between the DIO and the respective Army Service Commands have been good. In most districts they are excellent and no difficulties in this connection have come to light in recent months. No opportunity should be lost to maintain and further improve existing relationships in view of the increasing attention being given to the collection of positive intelligence by the Army.
3. It is respectfully recommended that:
 - a. The DIO, 3ND, be represented at the entire session of the conference, particularly since these talks are scheduled to cover both intelligence and counter-intelligence.
 - b. Lt. Comdr. A. C. Crilley, USNR, the CinC of the North American Theater (FN), attend the sessions on 19 July and deliver the enclosed address.

Respectfully,

Recommended approval
130900.
OK *Res*

A. E. Schrader
A. E. SCHRADER

Encl. (HW)

1. Address for Subject Conference.

FOREIGN POSITIVE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ACTIVITIES
OF NAVY IN THE UNITED STATES

General Statement:

The North American Theater Section of the Division of Naval Intelligence, known as "Op-16-FN", was formally established May 1, 1943, and charged with the duty of supervising the collection within the continental United States and Alaska of positive intelligence concerning foreign areas which would be of value to our naval forces. The actual collection of such intelligence was to be made by District Intelligence Officers in the various Naval Districts, and on April 19, 1943, a letter signed by the Director of Naval Intelligence, requested these officers to consider how this should best be done and to submit their views on that subject.

Previously some efforts had been made by the District Intelligence Officers to collect foreign information, but no standard method of collecting and disseminating this information had been followed.

Before a general directive was issued on how this work was to be carried out in the future, a conference was held at the Navy Department in Washington, D. C. from June 15 to 18, 1943 inclusive, which was attended by representatives from each naval district within the United States. This permitted the District officers who were to be in charge of the collection of foreign intelligence to learn what sorts of information were most needed and how such information was handled by the Division of Naval Intelligence.

Conference on Sources and Procedure:

At this meeting, the discussion covered potential sources of information, such as banks and business firms with overseas branches, the records of which might supply data on strategic industries and commerce, etc.; universities, museums and libraries for books, maps and photographs; shipping firms for data on ports; immigration officials, travel agencies, scientific and technical societies, missionary societies, the maritime unions, newspaper files, censorship, the FBI, etc., for names of refugees, aliens and Americans who had specialized knowledge on enemy territory. In the discussion, emphasis was put upon cooperation with other agencies such as OSS, MIS and Army Map Service, Censorship, the FBI and the Anti-trust Division of the Department of Justice, and BEW (now after various transformations, a part of FEA). In order to avoid duplication of effort, attention was also paid to the problem of coordinating this work with other activities within Naval Intelligence, especially with the activities of the Naval Intelligence Ship and Plane Boarding officers, who at that time visited vessels coming into port and who are, therefore, able to interview ships' personnel and travelers, and to pass on to other Intelligence officers, names of persons who might profitably be interviewed again.

In order to show the district officers what foreign information had already been gathered, they were indoctrinated in the particular requirements of the Foreign theater desks in DNI, the Graphic Section in DNI, which receives and duplicates for distribution, photographs and maps, the Hydrographic Office and the Army Map Service. Representatives from MIS, including Col. Morgan, executive officer of the Collection Unit, also spoke on similar work done by the Army.

Tasks of F Section in the Naval Districts:

This FN Section, therefore, was made responsible to the North American Theater Section in Washington, and charged with carrying on the following activities:

- (1) To collect or receive foreign intelligence from local sources and forward this to DNI.
- (2) To insure that the sources of such information are loyal and reliable.
- (3) To exchange directly with other districts, leads, i.e., names and addresses of persons or organizations believed to have such information.
- (4) To maintain close liaison with local representatives of ^{FEA} FBI, ~~BEW~~ and other government agencies collecting foreign intelligence, and particularly with their "opposite numbers" in the local branches of MIS, so that information could be exchanged and duplication of effort be eliminated. It should be mentioned that a later directive stipulated that when it was discovered a particular informant had already given his information to another government agency, the interviewing officer was not to duplicate the previous interview, but was to inform the DNI and indicate where the report of this interview was available. In some cases, when it is believed that the subject still possesses information of Naval interest which has not already been imparted, DNI may request that this be obtained.

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(5) The last duty of the District Foreign Intelligence

Section, was to keep a record of all sources of information. In this connection, a suggested "Contact Register" form was supplied, with instructions that two copies of every such record on informants be sent to DNI. Later we shall have more to say about this Contact Register.

Procedures:

In this way, the system for collecting foreign intelligence from sources in the United States was established.

Up until September, 1943, the DIO's carried on the work of collecting and forwarding foreign information without further guidance from Washington. Almost all of the written reports were received in the form of letters or memoranda of which only one or two copies were received, and this prevented immediate, wide dissemination of the material so obtained. On the other hand, all photographs were accompanied by negatives (the originals, or negatives made from prints loaned by the owners) so that the Graphic Section was able to furnish copies, not only to all interested Navy Department sections, but to the operating forces and to MIS.

From May 1 to September 1, 1943 over 1600 items, including written reports, pictures, maps, charts, books of strategic naval interest were received.

Early in September, the Naval Districts were requested to send in all written reports on a standard form known as NNI-96, i.e., the form used by Naval Attaches. These have a master sheet, on the reverse side of which is a hectograph carbon, from which up to 100 copies can be run off. About the same time, the DIO's were given further instructions as to the type

of material desired. This included:

Concentration on More Specific Objectives:

Detailed reports and photographs, charts, sketches, etc., on docks, beaches, vulnerable bridges and industrial installations, airfields, railroads, as well as information about persons in enemy-occupied territories likely to be sympathetic and useful to the allied cause.

Certain areas were also listed, on which almost any information was desired, such as: Bay of Bengal Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, etc. From time to time, as the theater of operations has shifted and as satisfactory information on certain areas has become available, further instructions have been sent out. In addition, all reports received by DNI are evaluated by the cognizant section and their comments, which may include requests for further information on a special topic or area, are sent back to the District. In this way, the quality and value of the reports has constantly been improved, and despite reductions in personnel.

Evaluation and Dissemination:

It may be of interest to know the way in which these reports are handled. In addition to the text, they usually consist of maps and photographs, the latter are already properly lettered and are accompanied by photostat or photographic negatives. Before these reports are duplicated, the cognizant foreign desk in DNI evaluates them and suggests an appropriate distribution. This may not only cover several branches of the Navy Department outside of DNI, such as the Hydrographic Office, Naval Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, etc.; but advanced intelligence centers, such as JICPOA and JICA-CIB; and operating forces such as, ComPhibLant or ComSoWesPac. Other government agencies in Washington, OSS or FEA, for example, may receive copies.

According to our arrangements with MIS, this agency receives seven copies of every confidential report and five of every secret report, and

additional copies can always be supplied. Moreover, it should be noted that for 80% of the reports, a copy has already been given to the local MIS office by the DIO who prepared the report. Often the interview which obtained the information was conducted jointly by a naval and an army representative.

All enclosures reproduced by photostat accompany the reports when distributed by the North American Theater, but the photographs are handled separately by the Graphic Section. Thus, one copy of each is sent to the Army's Photographic Laboratory, while additional prints are furnished only on order.

When the District Intelligence Officers acquire bulky materials, such as charts, atlas, books, etc., it is customary for them to ask the DNI whether these are desired before sending them to Washington.

Conversely, when the various foreign desks in DNI wish information on a particular topic or maps on a particular area, the North American Theater forwards such requests to the naval districts.

Results Obtained:

The bulk of the material handled is impressive; thus, from September 1, 1943, to July 1, 1944, over 2600 written reports have been received and almost 15,700 photographs. More important, however, is the value of these reports. This can be readily measured by the number sent to the operating forces, for, as we know, the "Proof of the pudding is in the eating." Out of the 2600 odd received, 1600 went to the operating forces, many of these, not on the original dissemination, but in response to special requests. For example, a dispatch requested 40 copies of one report for ComSubForPac. At first, the foreign desks were hesitant about suggesting wide dissemination to our fleets but as the worth of these reports has been

established, it is gratifying to note that the proportion of reports requested for direct transmission to the operating forces has steadily increased.

Regional Aspects of Source Material:

It is natural that the Third Naval District, with headquarters in New York City, and with the largest personnel devoted to the collection of foreign intelligence, should have contributed the largest number of reports. It is natural, too, that the New York, San Francisco (12ND), and San Diego (11ND) offices, located as they are on important seaports, should have produced reports of special value to the Navy. What is surprising, is that the Ninth Naval District, embracing the Middle West, should have submitted so many excellent reports, in the last month, for example, making the largest contribution of any Naval District of reports sent directly to our forces afloat. This fact indicates not only the wealth of material to be gathered in the United States, but the high quality of the work which the field groups can and do produce. The Third, Ninth, Eleventh and Twelfth Naval Districts are outstanding in their accomplishments in this type of activity, and the monthly evaluations of their reports have carried an increasing proportion of entries such as, "An excellent report because of its detailed information. Further information of this kind is desired".

Contact Register:

Some of the improvement in the quality of the information submitted can be attributed to the use made by the Far Eastern desks in DNI of the Contact Register. It will be remembered that the DIO's were instructed to send in two copies of the record made of each informant. These records give the subject's name, address, etc., and in some detail, his professional training and experience, and his foreign experience. The latter includes the places (with dates) which he has visited, the type of information (natural resources, aviation, physical geography), etc., which he can furnish on particular areas, the languages or dialects he can speak, read or write,

and a rough estimate of the photographs or maps, etc., he can furnish on these areas.

As the Contact Register forms are received in the North American Theater, they are screened and the best are sent to the cognizant desk for comment. In many cases, this has resulted in special requests for interviews with these informants, sometimes including a full list of questions to be asked. In a few cases, a representative from DNI has gone to conduct the interview himself or the informant has been brought to Washington. The Contact Register has made it possible for the Navy to furnish the Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Service (JANIS), with names of informants on particular areas, and it has also been used as a means of locating translators and interpreters. From time to time, names of informants resident in Canada have been received, and these have been forwarded to our Naval Attache in Ottawa to share with the Canadian Director of Naval Intelligence.

Summary and Recommendations:

While the results thus obtained by the North American Theater and its subordinate district organizations have been gratifying, improvements can still be made.

It would be possible, for example, to obtain even closer cooperation with Military Intelligence, and a number of suggestions to this end are offered here for your consideration.

(1) The District Intelligence Officers could be furnished with a list of the Army's needs, and the local MIS officers in the various Service Commands with a list of the topics on which the Navy desires information. Such lists could be drawn up in Washington by the parent organizations by conferences between the foreign desks in the two organizations. Thus, when an MIS officer interviews an informant he will be able to obtain all information from him which will be of value to both branches of the armed services. As already

reported, in the larger cities where MIS and Naval Intelligence representatives are stationed, such interviews are frequently conducted as joint enterprises. This is the ideal arrangement when a good informant is available, but when the subject lives in a remote locality, it would not be economical to send two officers to interview him.

(2) Presumably the MIS officers in the various Service Commands keep records of potential or proved informants and leads are exchanged with the local naval Intelligence organization, it would be desirable if a uniform type of Contact Register form were adopted for use by MIS and DNI in Washington, so that each could maintain a complete Contact Register, or, so that one master file, available to both, could be instituted. For example, we have in our files many records of informants who have never been interviewed because their information appears to cover inland, not coastal areas but no system has as yet been worked out for making these names available to the appropriate section in MIS which might wish to order an interview. It is, therefore, suggested that a representative of MIS inspect the Navy's Contact Register and discuss methods whereby it may be used to serve the Army's needs and also methods for making available to the Navy the names of potential informants on matters of Naval interest. It is to be anticipated that eventually the regular sources of information in this country will become exhausted, and that no further foreign information can be obtained except from escapees and evacuees from enemy-occupied areas. This saturation point is not yet within sight, however, in view of the fact that of some 7000 names in the Navy's Contact Register over 4/5 have not yet furnished information.

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Even if one half of these have nothing of value to give which has not yet been obtained, the magnitude of the task still before us challenges the best efforts of both Naval and Military Intelligence Services and calls for our closest collaboration.

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