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June 24, 1940.

MEMORANDUM to:

Brigadier General Sherman Miles,
Acting Chief of Staff, G-2
War Department

Rear Admiral W. S. Anderson, Director,
Naval Intelligence,
Navy Department

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice.

In the presence of General Sherman Miles, I telephoned the President. Referring to the conversations we have had with Mr. Welles, I said that the Inter-Departmental Committee, charged with coordinating intelligence work, wished his directions as to the formation of a unit for foreign intelligence work (in addition, of course, to the intelligence work now being carried on by the Army and the Navy).

The choice lay between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Military Intelligence Division of the Army, and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

The President said that he wished that the field should be divided. The FBI should be responsible for foreign intelligence work in the Western Hemisphere, on the request of the State Department. The existing Military Intelligence and Naval Intelligence branches should cover the rest of the world, as and when necessity arises.

It is understood that the proposed additional foreign intelligence work should not supersede any existing work now being done; and that the FBI might be called in by the State Department for special assignments outside the American Hemisphere, under special circumstances. Aside from this, intelligence outside the American Hemisphere is to be left to the officers of the Army and Navy.

A. A. Berle, Jr.

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