

*Op-16-B-7*  
*Miller*

In reply refer to Initials  
and No.

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Op-16-B-7

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

21 February 1944

*REL*

Memorandum for Op-16-1-B

Via: Op-16-B (K)

Subject: Japanese File Search for Army

1. Army has again reversed itself by deciding to abandon restrictive selection of American citizens of Japanese ancestry for Army service and is going to throw enlistment open through Selective Service.

2. The train of events following this new decision reveals some points worthy of studied consideration in relation to operation of an intelligence organization. The points are rammed home to us because the Naval Intelligence Service is directly affected by a decision over which neither it nor the Navy had any part, or were called upon in an advisory capacity.

3. The first and immediate reaction is to call on Op-16-B-7 for a name check of all Japanese coming up for Army enrollment through Selective Service. This involves the processing of approximately 8,000 names in the next three months.

4. The first lesson is that of the result of MIS' policy of abandoning interest in all persons not in the Army, either as civilians or service personnel. The file material furnished MIS by ONI immediately after Pearl Harbor has not only not been kept up, but dissipated. ONI is now called on to do MIS' work.

5. It is estimated that ONI will have information on about 35 per cent of the names submitted and will have to prepare summaries on from 15 to 17 per cent, including those against whom there is no information of interest except as reflected by dangerous family relationships. None of these 8,000 will have been processed under the Joint Board review of persons eligible for release from WRA centers. In short, the 8,000 is a net increase in work load.

6. As result of longer work on the Japanese problem and the better background information for evaluation that comes from both experience and personnel especially qualified, ONI is in a better position

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to service Army than FBI. FBI is making a similar name check for Army on the same persons.

7. Other points for consideration are:

- (a) ONI's position of joint responsibility and jurisdiction in Japanese matters.
- (b) Effect on national war effort of discontinuing service of information.
- (c) Difficulties encountered in reversing or materially altering a service in war time.
- (d) Need for intelligence organizations to anticipate legitimate demands for service, keeping inside the realm of probability.
- (e) Need for considering unexpected work loads and having trained personnel available to meet such loads.

Respectfully,

*Wallace S. Wharton*

Wallace S. Wharton.

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