

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

May 21, 1941.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION CIRCULAR LETTER NO. GEN 4 - 41.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Reports - Reliability Rating Designated by
Division of Naval Intelligence Using Symbols.

1. The degree of reliability of information disseminated by the Division of Naval Intelligence will be indicated by the following symbols in order to assist the recipients of this information in their evaluation thereof:

Rating "A" - The information is considered reliable in substance and proceeding from a reliable source. Subject to other information received from other reliable sources either in affirmation or in negation, weight and credence in general should be given to it.

Rating "B" - Information is considered reasonable, but is not confirmed. Information of this type may proceed from a mere logical deduction from the general or specific circumstances attending and influencing general or specific situations.

Rating "C" - Information is of the character of a rumor, but has sufficient plausibility to warrant reporting it, depending upon verification or contradiction later. It should have the effect of placing pertinent naval units on the alert for actions of a character which may be indicated by the information.

Rating "D" - Information of less validity than "C", usually of the nature of rumors which are palpably illogical and unwarranted by general attending circumstances. Information of this class is disseminated for one or more of the following reasons:

(A) It is textually embodied in other reports from which it cannot be separated.

(b) It serves to color and therefore aids in the evaluation of other information.

(c) Because the indications are that it may definitely be disseminated by parties interested in the release of the information.

(d) It indicates the general incredibility or unreliability of information proceeding from certain sources.

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2. When reports contain information on several parts or phases of a subject such as to require separate rating action on the several parts, such separate ratings will be made by marginal notation.

3. When the source of information is not sufficiently indicated, information on the source will be given together with the reliability rating by the Division of Naval Intelligence in appropriate cases.

4. When intelligence is forwarded in the dispatch form, the reliability rating of the Division of Naval Intelligence and the source will be given in appropriate cases.

/s/

A. G. Kirk,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Director of Naval Intelligence.

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