

18 March 1944

SECRET

NOTES for Captain Wharton ---  
on topics requested by Admiral Hart

✓ 18 Sept. 1936

Secret ltr. from JAG to SecNav, subject: Activities of Japanese naval and civilian personnel in Hawaii. This letter replies to a request by SecNav into Japanese activities in an effort to determine whether violations of espionage and other statutes exist. It is the opinion of JAG that the provisions of the Espionage Act "are sufficiently comprehensive to cover" the cases reported by the Local Joint Planning Committee--Hawaii, which report was an enclosure to the Sec's letter to JAG. JAG further opines that the individuals concerned are subject to prosecution. The conclusion of JAG is that "action depends primarily on proof as to fact and on the disposition to act". (Japanese Intelligence Activities--14ND, B-7-0 safe)

✓ 21 Oct. 1940

DNI memo for Domestic Intelligence and Op-16-B in reply thereto. The Director's memo asks for names and addresses of Japanese, German and Italian diplomatic and attache staffs who are known to engage in undercover espionage or sabotage activity or who are suspected of such activity; the information to be of such character that it could be given to State. Paragraph 1-(c) of the Op-16-B reply gives one instance of what appears to be espionage in 14ND. (Japanese Intelligence Activities--No. America 1940, B-7-0 safe)

6 Jan. 1941

FBI Report on General Japanese Intelligence Survey in the Honolulu Field Division. On pages 8 and 9 of this report are listed more than 30 Japanese consular agents on the Island of Kauai, T.H., whom the FBI apparently believed particularly dangerous. The material in this report includes exhaustive data on Japanese economic, social, religious and other organizations and other leaders on the Island of Kauai. The interpretation might be that the FBI, as early as January 1941, was becoming well back-grounded on Japanese activities in Hawaii. (Surveys--14ND 1941, in B-7-0 Surveys file)

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Authority NND 73643

26 March 1941

Confidential ltr. DIO-11ND to Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Honolulu, transmitting additional names added to the 11ND Suspect List since DIO's last report to FBI dated 21 Feb. 1941. It appears thus, that FBI was cognizant of DIO's Suspect List which in August 1940, comprised 23 pages of single-spaced typing, to which supplements were added. (11ND Suspect List, B-7-0 file)

7 June 1941

On this date Lt. Comdr. Itaru TATIBANA, IJN, together with Toraichi KONO were arrested by FBI agents and on the following day signed statements admitting attempts to obtain information of the U.S. Navy through Al D. BLAKE. This was the culmination of an investigation initiated by the DIO-11ND several months previously and subsequent collaboration by 11ND and FBI. The Territory of Hawaii became involved when the Japanese agent attempted to get information about the fleet at Hawaii. A brief summary of this case is given in the FBI report dated 1-23-43, subject: Itaru TATIBANA (KONO, Toraichi Case History, B-7-0). TATIBANA was not prosecuted; at the request of the State Dept. the Japanese withdrew the agent from the U.S. Subsequent pressure upon the Dept. of State resulted in the deportation of two other Japanese naval officers, OKADA and YAMADA, also agents. (B-7-0 memo for Capt. Wharton, 23 Aug. 1943, B-7-0 Day File)

10 July 1941

Conf. ltr. from DIO-11ND to Op-16-B, subject: Overseas Japanese Central Society. Report on Japanese, Hawaiian and U.S. organization headed by the Emperor's Premier. Copy from 11ND to Honolulu field office; copy from ONI to FBI with acknowledgment from Mr. Hoover attached. Additional information, same subject, was given FBI by 11ND on 23 July. (Case History B-7-0, "Overseas Japanese Central Society")

10 Nov. 1941

Secret ltr. from Com 14 to CNO, subject: Prosecution of Japanese for being agents of foreign government without registration. This letter, of which Admiral Hart has a copy, was to the effect that Com 14 had been informed that the FBI possessed evidence of Japanese espionage activity in the Hawaiian Islands. Com 14 had already informed FBI that he saw no reason for not prosecuting; however, the Commanding General, Hawaiian Dept., succeeded in blocking the prosecution for diplomatic reasons. On 6 December 1941, CNO replied giving details of the War Dept.'s attitude. On 17 December 1941, Op-16-B informed Op-16-B-7 that the subject agents had been interned. (Japanese Intelligence Activities--11ND, B-7-0 safe)

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23 Jan. 1942

The Roberts Report. Section 16 indicates that prior to 7 December 1941 Japanese spies and consular agents operated in Hawaii. The extract reads, "Prior to the establishment of an office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Hawaii, Naval Intelligence investigated enemy activities amongst the civilian population. When the Bureau's office was established, it was agreed by the three governmental agencies that the Bureau should take over and become primarily responsible for investigation of matters connected with the civilian population and that the three services should cooperate with each other."

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You asked for instances wherein ONI supplied information to FBI for action, mentioning a letter from Mr. Hoover to Captain (now Admiral) Wilkinson. The nearest approach we can find to the reference is a letter from Mr. Hoover to Captain Kirk, dated 24 May 1941, stating in part, "Recently this Bureau has received from the Office of Naval Intelligence several requests for investigations of aliens which were stated to have been predicated on information in their possession. However, the pertinent information referred to was not contained in the communication transmitting the request. I believe that in these cases it would be helpful if this information were furnished", etc.

Another instance of collaboration with the FBI is a 14ND confidential letter dated 3 June 1941 from Captain Mayfield to Robert Shivers, Special Agent in Charge, in Honolulu. This relays an intelligence report from the Island of Hawaii to the FBI.

The first letter is filed in a folder entitled, "Coordination of Activities of ONI, FBI, MIS -- A3-1/A8-5," while the second letter is filed in a folder entitled, "Territory of Hawaii", filed in B-7-O category file 501.615.

Respectfully,



Donald M. Davies  
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

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