March 7, 1949

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MEMORANDIM FOR: REAR ADMIRAL B. C. HOOPER OF

Thanks for your memorandum of March 3 covering that meeting in New York of the principal commercial communication companies. The steps taken there seem to me to be very sound and I shall be glad to be kept informed of your progress.

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In reply refer to Initials and No.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

OP-14/LJH

NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM for the Secretary of the Navy.

At your request executives representing the principle United States commercial communication companies—American Telephone and Telegraph Company; All America Cables and Radio, Inc.; Commercial Cable Company; Globe Wireless Ltd.; Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, Inc.; Postal Telegraph, Inc.; Press Wireless, Inc.; R.C.A. Communications, Inc.; Radiomarine Corporation of America; and Western Union Telegraph Company—assembled in the conference room of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company at 195 Broadway, New York City, at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 1942, and I explained to them the importance of their taking the initiative in isolating possible fifth column employees, and your request that this be done with urgency.

They agreed that it is important, and accepted the fact that the companies must do this job if it is to be done promptly and without great confusion to them.

Except for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company, the companies could not see how they could proceed to "spy" on their own employees inasmuch as this is prohibited by the Wagner Act.

It was suggested and agreed that a contract be entered into between the War and Navy Departments on the one hand, and the companies on the other, similar to the plant security contracts, and that this would pave the way for a satisfactory, workable arrangement. I agreed to this suggestion.

Commander Ellery W. Stone, USNR, Executive Vice President of Postal Telegraph, Inc., volunteered to act as liaison representative to prepare this contract, and this was agreed to.

In answer to questions, I explained that it was necessary to isolate not only Axis employees, but also any others, including Communists, who actually believed in the overthrow of the democratic system of government.

The company executives asked me to extend their thanks to the Secretary, and assurances of their cooperation.

Attached is a list of those present.

S. C. Hooper, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

American Telephone and Telegraph Company

K. S. McHugh

M. R. Sullivan

All America Cables and Radio, Inc.

Frank W. Phelan

Commercial Cable Company and Commercial Pacific Cable Company

J. Goldhammer

Globe Wireless Ltd.

J. C. Currie

Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, Inc.

Luke McNamee

Postal Telegraph, Inc.

Ellery W. Stone

Press Wireless, Inc.

D. K. deNeuf

R.C.A. Communications, Inc.

W. A. Winterbottom

Radiomarine Corporation of America

A. J. Costigan

Western Union Telegraph Company

A. N. Williams

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March 3, 1942

MEMORANDUM for the Chief of Nevel Operations (Director of Nevel Intelligence)

My

In connection with the attached memorandum, I find it will be necessary to give the heads of U.S. communication companies authentic information concerning the type of communists who are dangerous to the point that they should be isolated from positions where they might be of danger in these companies.

Accordingly, I request your approval to furnish the president of each company a copy of Op-16-B-7 confidential serial No. 0224316, dated January 26, 1942, with enclosure (A), "Survey of Communist Party Propaganda and Espionage Activities".

If this is not desirable, as an alternative I request authority to furnish a copy to Commander Ellery W. Stone, USNR, Executive Vice President of Postal Telegraph, Inc., and authorize him to read it to the heads of these companies.

As we are passing the responsibility to these executives for doing what we want for security, we are obligated to assist them as we can.

S. C. Hooper, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

SENT - DIVISION COPY RETURNED

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