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WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
RECEIVED



JUN 5 1941

A3-1/A8-5(5-29)

May 29, 1941.

Captain Alan G. Kirk,  
Director of Naval Intelligence,  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Kirk:

There are transmitted herewith signed copy  
and duplicate of the report on coordination of the  
three Intelligence Services.

Sincerely yours,

A large, cursive handwritten signature that reads 'Sherman Miles'.

SHERMAN MILES,  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,  
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

*mjs*

Enclosures:  
Report and duplicate copy.

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Authority NND 803073

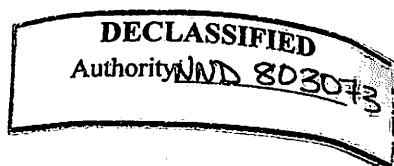
Report on Coordination of the three Intelligence Services,  
the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Military Intelli-  
gence Division, and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

1. The three Intelligence Services operate under the Presidential directive of June 26, 1939, copy attached. In conformity with that directive, the three Services drew up an Agreement, dated June 5, 1940, to coordinate their respective activities and delimit their respective fields of responsibility. That Agreement was submitted to and approved by the Attorney General and the Secretaries of War and the Navy.

2. The question arises whether the coordination between the three Intelligence Services is adequate, particularly in the event of war, or whether the appointment of a Coordinator for the three Services is necessary or desirable.

3. As a result of nearly two years' work under the President's directive of June 26, 1939, and nearly a year of operation under the Agreement of June 5, 1940, the considered opinions and recommendations of the heads of the three Intelligence Services are as follows:

a. Coordination between the three Services is working satisfactorily. The inevitable "twilight zone" between their responsibilities has been progressively narrowed, and the difficulties inherent in the operations of dissimilar organizations have been progressively eliminated.

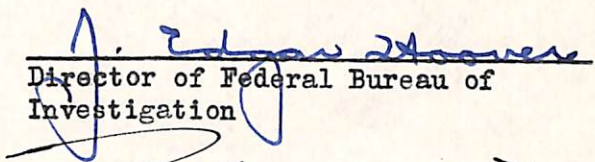


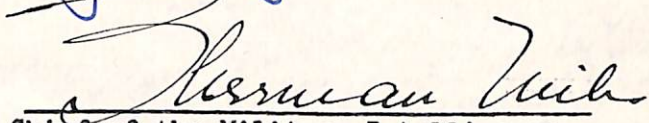
b. The useful role of a Coordinator of the three Intelligence Services would be limited to the now almost non-existent cases in which there may be a conflict of authority or responsibility between the three Services. Such rare cases would arise only in the counter subversive field, while outside of that field and aside from those cases the office of a Coordinator would be a positive detriment to the swift and secret action required by the Intelligence Services. This would especially apply to a period of war.

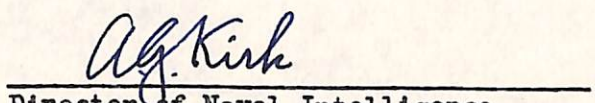
c. Another important consideration lies in the fact that each of the three Services have responsibilities to their own Department which lie outside the scope of their coordinated activities. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has important responsibilities to the Department of Justice which are not concerned with the National Defense. The Military Intelligence Division and the Office of Naval Intelligence are charged with the collection and evaluation of foreign military and naval intelligence required by the Armed Services. It would be extremely difficult to delimit a Coordinator's function to exclude these component parts of the operation of the three Services: and yet, were they not excluded, the resultant super-Intelligence Agency would be far too cumbersome and complicated for effective service to the three Departments, especially in the increased tempo of war.



d. The appointment of a Coordinator of the three Intelligence Services is unnecessary and would entail great complication in, if not serious detriment to the National Service, while offering only negligible advantages.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Federal Bureau of  
Investigation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of the Military Intelligence  
Division

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Naval Intelligence

May 29, 1941

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COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Hyde Park, N. Y.,  
June 26, 1939

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MEMORANDUM FOR - THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

It is my desire that the investigation of all espionage, counter-espionage, and sabotage matters be controlled and handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, and the office of Naval Intelligence of the Navy Department. The directors of these three agencies are to function as a committee to coordinate their activities.

No investigations should be conducted by any investigative agency of the Government into matters involving actually or potentially any espionage, counter-espionage, or sabotage, except by the three agencies mentioned above.

I shall be glad if you will instruct the heads of all other investigative agencies than the three named, to refer immediately to the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation any data, information, or material that may come to their notice bearing directly or indirectly on espionage, counter-espionage, or sabotage.

(sgd) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

