

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE  
ROME

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Ry# 12777

EN3/EE36  
A8/TJL:jam  
Serial 0010  
31 January 1956

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From: U.S. Naval Attache, Rome, Italy  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-92)

Subj: Relationship with CAS

Ref: (a) DNI ltr ser 007989P92 of 16 Dec 1955

Encl: (1) List by subject heading of material shown to ALUSNA  
by CAS, 13 Jan 1956

1. Paragraph 2 of reference (a) discussed the relationships between CAS and Naval Attaches in general and advised of certain conversations between ONI and CIA on the subject.

2. Following receipt of reference (a) conversations were held between CAS and ALUSNA on 13 January and again on 23 January which developed certain interesting points. It was disclosed that a message was received by CAS from Washington about 15 December (sighted by ALUSNA 23 January) giving certain particulars pertaining to cooperation with ALUSNA and stating that ALUSNA would be shown and allowed to review certain materials collected by CAS. The CAS representative stated that the material thus presented probably would be in Italian in most instances and that, because of a lack of personnel, CAS could not undertake translation. In addition, the material should be used in the following manner:

a. It should not be retained by ALUSNA beyond a period of one or two days, which would provide time for perusal and comment. (See c below)

b. It should not be copied or photographed. In unusual circumstances where, in ALUSNA's opinion, items were of urgent interest to DNI or forces afloat, portions might be used for message reports. The reasons for the above restrictions were given as protection of source, the nature of the material and the manner of collection.

c. After perusal, it should be returned to CAS with appropriate notations to include

(1) Comment that certain portions (if so considered) should be furnished DNI as soon as possible after receipt by CIA in Washington

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(2) Comment on those areas which in the opinion of ALUSNA should profitably be further developed by source(s).

It was indicated that after return by ALUSNA, CAS would make up their reports to CIA, accompanied by the raw material. In most cases these reports would be classified SECRET NOFORN with evaluation B-2.

3. ALUSNA raised objections to the procedures set forth in subparagraphs 2a., b., and c., above, using as arguments:

a. In general, the procedure would not enhance the timely receipt by ONI of material of primary interest to the Navy. The knowledge of the existence of certain types of information means little if that information is not speedily disseminated to those agencies that have use for it.

b. This office is not staffed with analysts although, of course, some assistance could be given CAS in the matter of areas which could be further developed (see subparagraph 2c(2) above. Nevertheless, it is not believed that the functions of ALUSNA should in any way be subordinated to meet CAS desires. The gist of this last sentence was not discussed in conference.

c. ALUSNA is prepared to protect sources and should carry that responsibility. The argument that CAS cannot release the material to ALUSNA so he can furnish DNI with the information in a timely fashion is not considered a valid one although such action would result in dual reporting.

4. On the occasion of the first conference with CAS on this subject (13 Jan.) a volume of material in Italian, reportedly received since 15 December, was passed to ALUSNA. Enclosure (1) lists the subject headings. ALUSNA mentioned that material of this type was of interest to DNI and that receipt in ONI should not be delayed. It was tedious and time consuming as well as technically difficult to translate (by one officer), digest and comment in the three days allotted for the purpose. CAS said on 23 January that the raw material (enclosure (1)) and CAS report consistent therewith had been pouched to CIA.

5. In addition to items similar to enclosure (1), it was pointed out to CAS that ALUSNA was extremely interested in all material having naval implications and cited communist influence, atomic energy and purely naval matters as examples. The reply given was, "We don't have that kind of information".

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6. In summary, it is not considered that this office should undertake the translation of CAS raw material, attempt to evaluate it, prepare guidance for the collector and then return it to CAS for their use. It is felt that the conversations held in accordance with reference (a) are a step in the right direction. However, it is strongly considered that only by retaining a copy of the material long enough for translation and preparing it for advance reporting in IR form can maximum benefit be derived. Accordingly, it is recommended:

a. That information of general naval interest be passed to ALUSNA rather than restricting it (as currently is indicated) to iron curtain country port information.

b. That material be made available for use by ALUSNA, in whole or in part, by IR or despatch, as he may judge and that ALUSNA be responsible for protecting the source of such information.

c. That the above be discussed at the Washington level.

7. There are no personality clashes between ALUSNA and CAS. Relationships are cordial. It is felt however, that clarification of directives issued in Washington to CAS officials relative to the usage of material collected by CAS would go a long way toward relieving the current situation.

  
 J.O. MINER

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LIST BY SUBJECT HEADING OF MATERIAL SHOWN TO ALUSNA

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1. Notes on the port of Odessa.
2. Notes on the ports of Burgas and Odessa
3. Russia - Notes on the port of Odessa - Kherson
4. Rumania - Notes on the port of Constanza
5. Bulgaria - Russia - Notes on the ports of Burgas and Odessa
6. Russia - Port of Odessa
7. Poland - Russia - Notices on the ports of Swinemunde  
Stettin and Odessa
8. Constanza (Rumania) - Notices
9. Russia - Port of Odessa
10. Russia - Notes on the port of Novorossisk
11. Romania - Romanian naval units at Constanza
12. Russia - Notes on the port of Constanza
13. Russia - Notices on the port of Odessa
14. Romania - Port of Constanza
15. Russia - Port of Novorossisk
16. Romania - Notes on the port of Constanza
17. Romania - Port of Constanza
18. Russia - Notes on the port of Novorossisk

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