

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

Op-16-B
(SC)A3-5
QR3/ND(3-14)
A2-3
Serial No. 0174216

Sep 9 1940

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To : Commandant, Eleventh Naval District.

Subject: Unsatisfactory cooperative arrangements with Federal Agencies.

Reference: (a) Com. 11 conf. ltr. ND11/A3-2, (A3-En), Serial I-290, of August 14, 1940.

1. In reference (a), the Commandant presents his military responsibilities and points out certain unsatisfactory arrangements in obtaining from other Federal Agencies first-hand information on suspects and possible saboteurs.

2. Until June, 1939, Investigating Units of Federal Agencies operated independently to a large extent, with limited exchange between Agencies. In order to coordinate information on activities involving espionage, counter-espionage and sabotage, a directive was issued by the President that all Federal Agencies other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Military Intelligence Division and the Office of Naval Intelligence, would refer immediately to the nearest F.B.I. Office all information bearing on these activities. In order to delimit the functions of the three Agencies, an agreement was made, included in basic letter as reference (a). Present conditions show the desirability of centralizing all information under one Federal Agency with permanent personnel. Thus there is but one clearing house into which information of interest flows and is coordinated, not only from all Federal Agencies, but from law-enforcement agencies and patriotic groups.

3. The intelligence files of the Eleventh Naval District are known to be most complete and comprehensive due to the zeal and ability of the present District Intelligence Officer and his predecessors. With important interests both to the Fleet and Shore Establishments located within the Eleventh Naval District, full information must be made available. To insure this, this point was discussed at a recent conference at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation assured this Office that instructions had been issued and would be reissued to their Field Offices that full information on cases of any possible or probable Naval interest must be immediately turned over to the District Intelligence Officers. With this cooperation, there appears to be no apparent need of filling files with information unless there is definitely a Naval interest.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Op-15-B
(SC)AS-5
CR3/ND(8-14)
A2-S

Serial No. 0174216

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

4. When the suspect list now being compiled by F.B.I., with O.N.I. and other assistance, is complete, and when F.B.I. irones out possible present imperfections in their organization, it is believed that all information of Naval interest, necessary to District Commandants, will be available, from F.B.I. and other Federal Agencies.

W S a

W. S. Anderson,
By direction.

Dictated by Capt. Nixon
" 3 Sept., 1940
Typed by C. Wesselman

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