

(SC) A8-3/EN3-10

SECRET

December 28, 1941

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Authority NNA 803073

By SA NARA. Date 2/3/14

MEMORANDUM FOR: CAPTAIN WILKINSON (3074) *Barre*

Subject: Colonel Donovan's Plans Regarding Joint

Intell. I think, for your own information and guidance, it might be well for you to dig out the executive order creating Colonel Donovan's Department of Coordinator of Information.

1. The Bulletin "Daily Summary" issues. In that, I think you will find instructions for both Army and Navy to provide Colonel Donovan with all information in their possession.

Under these conditions, it hardly seems necessary for me to instruct you to add his name to those who receive the bulletin. If you feel better about having such instructions, regard this as instructions to that effect.

I am afraid that you are a bit optimistic in your assumption that there is greater likelihood of leaking in Donovan's Department than there is in the Navy Department. My observations lead in exactly the opposite direction. I think we ourselves are far from being above criticism in this respect. To date, I have never heard of any important matter leaking out of the Coordinator's office. Of course, both of us thoroughly understand that the Navy Department has not been above criticism in this respect.

2. With regard to the telephone conversation from Hawaii, the following seems to be the case: I am glad to get the information about that alleged telephone conversation with Hawaii. The following seems to be the case: I am glad to get the information about that alleged telephone conversation with Hawaii. The following seems to be the case: I am glad to get the information about that alleged telephone conversation with Hawaii.

FRANK KNOX
SENT - DIVISION COPY RETURNED

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON

Copy No. 1 of 2

In reply refer to No.

Op-16

(SC) A8-3/EN3-10

December 26, 1941

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MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: Colonel Donovan's items regarding Joint Intelligence bulletin and Honolulu telephone conversation.

1. The bulletin to which Colonel Donovan refers is the "Daily Summary" issued by the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Board. The present distribution includes only the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, seven officers of the Army and six of the Navy. The precise distribution is shown on the cover sheet of each report, which Captain Beatty can show you. The Coordinator is not on the distribution list. This list is determined by the Joint Board and should be modified by them. You can, of course, direct a copy to be sent to him, or have a copy of yours made for him; but I think the Secretary of War should be notified that you are doing so because the Bulletin contains information vital to the Army as well as to ourselves.
2. Furthermore, while having every confidence in Colonel Donovan himself, I have doubts of the advisability of permitting this bulletin to circulate among members of his staff - first, because of the general advantage of restricting the spread of such knowledge to those who need it, and second, because of the possibility of indiscretion on the part of some one or more in his organization not long familiar with the requirements and practice of military secrecy.
3. With regard to the telephone conversation from Hawaii, the following seem to be the facts: A certain doctor (not the Consul or anyone officially connected with the Consulate) in Honolulu held an 18-minute telephone conversation in Japanese with a relative, understood to be his uncle, in Tokyo on the afternoon of December 6 between 1 and 2 p.m. The conversation was recorded automatically and subsequently translated and, I am informed by Mr. Tamm (Assistant Director of F.B.I.), given to naval and military intelligence officers in Hawaii in the late afternoon between five and six o'clock. This conversation was suspicious in itself by reason of an extensive discussion of the weather and by reason of a final inquiry as to what kind of flowers were in bloom there, of which two kinds were mentioned. In the light of subsequent events

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

character was all too apparent. I was, however, an official representative of the United States Government, and I was, therefore, in a position to investigate the status of the various individuals mentioned in the above letter. I had been, more than fifty years ago, on the recommendation of Mr. Carter, who at that time was a prominent industrialist, had made a trip to the West Coast and to Hawaii, and a second trip to the West Coast to accompany a representative of the United States Government.

T. S. Wilkinson

T. S. WILKINSON.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to No.

Op-16

(SC) A8-4

SECRET

December 29, 1941

RECEIVED S-C FILES
Room 2055

DEC 31 1941

ROUTE TO:- *From Sec room*Op File No. (SC) *A8-4*

Doc. No.

Copy No. _____ of _____

PRN _____

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: Status of Mr. John F. Carter.

Mr. John Franklin Carter came to my office on December 26th and introduced himself as, in effect, a confidential representative of the President with a particular mission to investigate the status of the various intelligence agencies in the United States. I had been aware that Mr. Curtis Munson, as the representative of Mr. Carter, who at that time was in a somewhat indefinite background status, had made a trip to the West Coast and to Hawaii, and a second trip to the West Coast in company with a representative of Colonel Donovan, on similar business. On his return from these trips Mr. Munson had rendered a report, presumably to Mr. Carter, copies of which (except for the Hawaiian section) he had shown me.

Mr. Carter showed me a memorandum on White House memo paper directing him to look into the status of intelligence agencies in New York, with the typewritten initials 'F.D.R.' but without the actual written initials of the President.

Mr. Carter stated that he had recently made a trip to New York and had conferred with Mr. Astor, whom you will recall has been appointed "Area Controller" with respect to the various intelligence services in that area, and had several suggestions, of a non-controversial character, to offer.

Today I received a letter from Mr. Astor stating in part:

(about Dec. 2)
"Mr. Carter informed me that he had been instructed by the President to make a very discreet survey of the various intelligence agencies, and to this end asked for my assistance and suggestions. Two or three days later" (about Dec. 5)
"I had an opportunity to see the President and brought the matter up. For your information, the interpretation that Mr. Carter had placed on his instructions was not confirmed, the President stating that he felt Mr. Carter could make a useful survey of the loyalty or otherwise of Japanese residents and perhaps other foreign born."

So far there has been no conflict between Mr. Carter and the

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Secretary Knox has seen

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regularly established investigatory services (F.B.I., M.I.D., O.N.I.), but if you are not already aware of this situation I bring it to your attention as indicating a sort of one-man Secret Service which is above and beyond the responsible departments. Obviously the President might be ill-advised under the circumstances.

T. S. Wilkinson

T. S. WILKINSON

Copies:

- No. 1 - The Secretary of the Navy
- No. 2 - Op-16.

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