

In reply refer to  
Op-16-B  
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Ser. 0385216

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
Washington

May 26, 1941

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From: The Chief of Naval Operations  
(Director of Naval Intelligence)  
To : Commandant, First Naval District  
Commandant, Third Naval District  
Commandant, Fourth Naval District  
Commandant, Fifth Naval District  
Commandant, Sixth Naval District  
Commandant, Seventh Naval District  
Commandant, Eighth Naval District  
Commandant, Ninth Naval District  
Commandant, Tenth Naval District  
Commandant, Eleventh Naval District  
Commandant, Twelfth Naval District  
Commandant, Thirteenth Naval District  
Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District  
Commandant, Fifteenth Naval District  
Commandant, Sixteenth Naval District  
Commandant, Washington Navy Yard

Subject: Federal Bureau of Investigation Instructions  
Regarding Investigation of Applicants

Enclosure: (A) Copy of subject instructions, issued by  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, dated  
March 4, 1941

1. The enclosure is forwarded for the information  
of the Naval Intelligence Service.

(signed)  
A. G. Kirk  
By direction

~~Declassified~~ Downgrade to .....

Auth: EA 12958 .....

Date: 21 SEP 98 Unit: NCIS 82 .....

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Authority NND 78643

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Washington, D. C.

March 4, 1941

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SAC	ALBANY	DES MOINES	LOUISVILLE	PORTLAND
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	BIRMINGHAM	GRAND RAPIDS	MILWAUKEE	ST. LOUIS
	BOSTON	HONOLULU	NEWARK	SALT LAKE CITY
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	BUTTE	HUNTINGTON	NEW ORLEANS	SAN DIEGO
	CHARLOTTE	INDIANAPOLIS	NEW YORK	SAN FRANCISCO
	CHICAGO	JUNEAU	OKLAHOMA CITY	SAN JUAN
	CINCONNATI	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA	SAVANNAH
	CLEVELAND	KNOXVILLE	PHILADELPHIA	SEATTLE
	DALLAS	LITTLE ROCK	PHOENIX	SIOUX FALLS
	DENVER	LOS ANGELES	PITTSBURGH	SPRINGFIELD
				WASHINGTON, D. C.

Re: Investigations of Applicants and  
Personnel of Government Departments  
other than the Department of Justice;  
Alien Employees in Aircraft and  
Munitions Production.

Dear Sir:

Previous Bureau instructions regarding investigations of applicants and personnel of Government Departments other than the Department of Justice should hereby be disregarded. In the future, the policy will be as follows:

The Attorney General has ruled that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not authorized to conduct investigations involving personnel of Government Departments other than the Department of Justice, except in those instances where there is an allegation of subversive activities or a violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau has primary jurisdiction.

You were instructed on January 29, 1941, to hold in abeyance investigations of applicants and personnel other than Departmental and Bureau, until further notice. In accordance with the ruling of the Attorney General, you will now place these cases in a closed status. These instructions, however, should not be taken to apply to those cases in which there has been an allegation of subversive activities or a violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau has primary jurisdiction.

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On January 31, 1941, you were instructed to discontinue all investigations being conducted regarding alien employees in aircraft and munitions production. Those cases which were closed in accordance with these instructions should continue to remain closed. In the future, however, you should be guided by the following instructions:

The Department has ruled that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has jurisdiction to conduct investigations of alien employees in aircraft and munitions production.

Specific requests will be submitted to the Field by the Bureau in individual cases where investigations of alien employees in aircraft and munitions production are desired. Investigations of this nature should never under any circumstances be initiated in the Field in the absence of specific Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director