

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Office of Naval Intelligence  
Washington

In reply refer to  
Op-16-B  
(SC)A8-5  
A3-1/A8-5  
Serial No. 026816

Declassified / Downgrade to .....

Auth: EO 12958 January 16, 1941

Date: 21 SEP 98 Unit: NCFS 22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To : Commandants, All Naval Districts;  
Commandant, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.;  
Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;  
Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Guam;  
Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Tutuila, Samoa.

Subject: Espionage, Counter-espionage, Sabotage, Subversive Activities  
and Violations of the Neutrality Laws.

Reference: (a) CNO conf. ltr. Op-16-B-3, A2-8, (SC)A8-5, Serial No.  
0102916, dated July 6, 1940.  
(b) CNO conf. ltr. Op-16-B, (SC)A8-5, A3-1/A8-5, Serial No.  
04816, dated January 8, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Federal Bureau of Investigation letter to all law-enforcement  
officials, dated September 6, 1939; Copy of.  
(B) Federal Bureau of Investigation bulletin No. 1, dated  
January 2, 1941; Copy of.

1. Enclosure (A) is a copy of an unclassified letter sent by the  
Federal Bureau of Investigation to all law-enforcement officials, stating  
that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been ordered to take charge of  
investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage and violations  
of neutrality regulations. This caused some confusion among civil law-  
enforcement officials as to whether or not to turn over to the Navy and the  
Army information which was of primary interest to these Services..

2. Enclosure (B), prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
as a modification of the instructions contained in enclosure (A), has been  
sent to all Special Agents in Charge of Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Field Divisions. It will be noted that while enclosure (B) is not addressed  
to all law-enforcement officials as was done in the case of enclosure (A),  
Special Agents in Charge of Field Divisions have been directed to bring the  
bulletin to the attention of all law-enforcement officials in their Districts.

Jules James,  
By direction.

Distribution:  
Addressees (5)  
CinCUS (5)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 73643

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
September 6, 1939

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

For your information, the following formal statement was today issued by the President of the United States:

"The Attorney General has been requested by me to instruct the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice to take charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage, and violations of the neutrality regulations.

This task must be conducted in a comprehensive and effective manner on a national basis, and all information must be carefully sifted out and correlated in order to avoid confusion and irresponsibility.

To this end I request all police officers, sheriffs, and all other law enforcement officers in the United States promptly to turn over to the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information obtained by them relating to espionage, counterespionage, sabotage, subversive activities and violations of the neutrality laws."

I am bringing this statement to your attention in order that if you have not already been advised of the President's desires in the handling of cases of the type above enumerated, you may be informed concerning the Federal Government's program. I am confident that you will cooperate in this matter by immediately notifying the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of any information received relating to cases in the above classifications.

Declassified / Downgrade to ..... Sincerely yours,

Auth: ED 12958 ..... (Sgd.) J. E. Hoover

Date: 21 SEP 98 ..... Unit: NCIS 22 ..... John Edgar Hoover  
Director

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WND 73043

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~  
CONFIDENTIAL

(D) WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS INFORMATION. -- It is desired that you bring to the attention of all law enforcement officers in your district through appropriate channels as promptly as possible, the following statement:

Law enforcement officials are encouraged to turn over direct to representatives of the War and Navy Departments information which is of primary interest to those departments. From time to time when law enforcement officers receive information which relates specifically to or is of primary interest to the Military or Naval organizations, they should turn this information over immediately to the nearest officer of the War or Navy Department.

Information that is of primary interest to the War and Navy Departments includes matters pertaining to personnel of those departments, including both uniformed and civilian personnel; subject matter pertaining to the Military and Naval establishments; suspicious or unusual movements or activities of foreign aircraft and shipping, including alien-manned fishing craft and Military and Naval information regarding foreign armies and navies.

The foregoing types of information, even though turned over to representatives of the War and Navy Departments, should also be transmitted to the nearest representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

~~Auth: ... EO 12958 .....~~

~~Date: 21 SEP 98 ... UIC: NCIS 22 .....~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 73043