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In reply refer to  
Initials and No.

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Op-16-B-7-CP  
QC/Interdepartmental  
Committee

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Serial No. 01189816

WASHINGTON

EO 12958  
21 SEP 98  
Date: ..... MEMORANDUM: NCTS 22

June 8, 1942.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: The Director of Naval Intelligence.  
 To: District Intelligence Officers, all Naval Districts  
 (except ND 16).  
 SUBJECT: Interdepartmental Committee on Investigations Pursuant  
 to Public No. 135; memoranda and briefs of decisions.  
 Enclosures: (A) FBI brief statements, May 7, 1942 with respect to  
 certain organizations which the Attorney General  
 authorized investigation.  
 (B) Organizations within the scope of investigation,  
 May 12, 1942.  
 (C) FBI reports pursuant to Public No. 135, May 13,  
 1942.  
 (D) Membership in the Communist Party or German-Ameri-  
 can Bund as ground for dismissal from Federal em-  
 ployment, May 18, 1942.  
 (E) In re Harry Bridges before the Attorney General  
 in Deportation Proceedings, May 28, 1942.  
 (F) Digest of statutes and orders enforced concerning  
 employee membership in subversive organizations  
 or advocating the overthrow of the Government.

1. Enclosures (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) are for-  
 forwarded for information and are self-explanatory. These enclosures  
 should be studied by all Naval Intelligence Officers having special  
 interests in the matters described therein. The strictly confidential  
 nature of these enclosures should be particularly noted and their  
 security well guarded. Extra copies of these enclosures are not  
 available but this office has arranged that sufficient copies of  
 future releases by the Interdepartmental Committee on Investigations  
 Pursuant to Public No. 135 may be obtained so that each District  
 Intelligence Officer will be forwarded one copy when of interest to  
 Naval Intelligence.

2. In connection with the policy which the Office of  
 Naval Intelligence has maintained in respect to determining whether  
 or not an individual is actually a Communist or not, or is controlled  
 by the Communist Party, Elmer Davis, the noted news commentator of  
 the Columbia Broadcasting System, in a nation-wide broadcast on

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May 25 aptly phrased a description of the situation that may be well noted. Speaking of inconsistencies on the part of some of the various investigative agencies, which are charged with looking up applicants for Government service, occasioned by the endeavors of inexperienced or incompetent investigators in the field to determine who is a Communist and who is not, Mr. Davis said, "the mere fact that Communists happen to support the policy does not necessarily make it a Communist policy. Now, fortunately, there is a very sure and simple test available to determine whether a man is a Communist or not--that is his behavior between August 21, 1939, when the German-Russian treaty was signed, and on June 21, 1941, when Germany attacked Russia, his behavior in that period as contrasted with his behavior before and after. Men who have been given as references by various applicants for Government employment and have accordingly met a number of these investigators say that some few of them appear to be well meaning but ignorant young men from prosperous homes and good colleges, who honestly believe that anybody with political opinions farther left than the Chamber of Commerce is a Communist."

3. It is interesting to note that Mr. Davis has independently arrived at the basic formula used by ONI for detecting Communists. True, the Office of Naval Intelligence applies many refinements to the base, but essentially it is the same. Such corroborative conclusions as reached by Mr. Davis are gratifying to ONI as demonstrating not only the fundamental soundness of its procedure, but also in clearly indicating the need for being on the alert so that future shifts in the Communist Party line, from any cause whatever, need not catch anyone unawares.

/s/ J. B. W. Waller,  
By direction.

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