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Serial 02474116

November 3, 1942

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: The Commandant of the Coast Guard.
Commanders, All Sea Frontiers.
Commandants, All Naval Districts, Except Sixteenth.

SUBJECT: United States Coast Guard, its responsibility to and its relationship with the Naval Intelligence Service and other investigative agencies.

1. The responsibility of the United States Coast Guard to and its relationship with the Naval Intelligence Service and other investigative agencies shall be as follows:

I. THE COAST GUARD.

(A) Conduct all investigations concerning all personnel of the Coast Guard, civilian and military; applicants for any position in the Coast Guard; and members of the Coast Guard auxiliary. Investigation of persons enrolled as temporary members of the Coast Guard Reserve for plant security shall be the responsibility of the Naval Intelligence Service (See II-A, Page 3).

(B) Conduct, on the waterfront, all investigations necessary to prevent destruction, loss or injury from sabotage or other subversive acts, accidents, or other causes of a similar nature, of vessels harbors, ports, and waterfront facilities in the United States and in Alaska, the Territory of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, except such waterfront facilities as may be directly operated by the War Department. The Coast Guard shall promptly furnish the Naval District Intelligence Officer concerned with all information and material coming into its possession relative to alleged or suspected acts of sabotage, espionage, or subversive activities.

(C) Act in situations where time is an important factor and the failure to act promptly might jeopardize the successful conclusion of cases included in the categories of espionage, counter-espionage, subversion, and sabotage. When so acting, the Coast Guard will be assumed to be acting temporarily for the agency having primary responsibility (Military Intelligence Service, Naval Intelligence Service, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation) until a representative of that agency arrives on the scene to adopt the case. Upon arrival of the representative of the adopting agency, the representative of the Coast Guard shall promptly transfer the case its entirety to the former, and when informed by him that he

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has assumed responsibility, and the assistance of the Coast Guard is no longer desired, the Coast Guard representative shall withdraw from the case. In every such case in which the Coast Guard acts, the appropriate Coast Guard authority shall, as soon as practicable, report the case to the nearest representative of the Naval Intelligence Service, giving full information and the name of the adopting agency.

(D) Furnish to the Naval Intelligence Service all information received which has a direct or indirect bearing on or is included in the categories of espionage, counter-espionage, subversion, and sabotage. This contemplates that normal Coast Guard liaison with the Military Intelligence Service, the Naval Intelligence Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on all matters of espionage, counter-espionage, subversion, and sabotage shall be through the appropriate representative of the Naval Intelligence Service. The Coast Guard has no investigative responsibility for and shall not investigate any activity involving these four categories except in connection with its own personnel, as specified in paragraph 1-A and except investigations of preventative character relating to security of ports as specified in paragraph 1-B.

(E) Furnish to appropriate representatives of the Naval Intelligence Service information having Naval Intelligence value or interest, obtained by the Coast Guard in the conduct of its several duties, such as that contained in various Coast Guard reports, relating to and including: coastal flights, investigations and hearings of marine casualties, operations of Coast Guard vessels, violations of anchorage regulations, violations of radio sealing instructions, waterfront fires or other casualties, coastal information, commerce and travel, removal of undesirables from vessels or denial of access to waterfront facilities, and other important matters in order that the Naval Intelligence Service may receive maximum information through the facilities of the Coast Guard in the latter's fields of activities. This contemplates that the Coast Guard, acting as an element of the Navy Department, will report to the Naval Intelligence Service all information having naval interest which is obtained by the Coast Guard.

(F) Conduct all investigations necessary in the administration of the navigation and shipping laws and regulations and make all investigations appropriate under the authority of the statute defining the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard which act vests broad

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police power in the Coast Guard (14 U.S.C. sec. 45). Examples of the first type of investigation are those made in connection with marine casualties for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the disaster and for the purpose of determining whether the license of any officer or the certificate of any seaman should be suspended or revoked and in connection with violations of the navigation and motorboat laws. In the second type of cases involving the exercise of its police power the Coast Guard may deal directly with the appropriate federal agency concerned. For example, the violations of the customs laws would be referred to the Bureau of Customs, violations of narcotics laws to the Bureau of Narcotics; threats against the President of the Secret Service; violation of the immigration laws to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, use of the mails to defraud to the Post Office Department.

(G) Designate the number of agents desired for port security in each port, make nominations of prospective agents to the appropriate representative of the Naval Intelligence Service, assign such agents to duties, evaluate and take the necessary action resulting from or indicated by the reports of such agents.

(H) Safeguard all classified material, including the security of all sources of information furnished by the Naval Intelligence Service, as prescribed by Navy Regulations.

(I) Make Coast Guard personnel available for assignment by the local representative of the Naval Intelligence Service, when specifically requested so to do, and when compliance with such request is feasible.

II. THE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

(A) Investigation of all cases in the categories of espionage, counter-espionage, subversion, and sabotage in the Naval Establishment, including investigations as required of persons enrolled as temporary members of the Coast Guard Reserve for plant security.

(B) Furnish to the Coast Guard all available information required by the latter in the conduct of its duties.

(C) Effect the procurement and release from employment on qualified agents in the number required by Coast Guard for port security, pay their salaries and expenses, assign such agents to duty under the Coast Guard in places designated by District

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Coast Guard Officers, and give the Coast Guard opportunity, through its District Coast Guard Officers, to nominate agents for use in matters involving port security.

III. REMOVAL OR EXCLUSION OF UNDESIRABLE PERSONS FROM VESSELS OR WATERFRONT FACILITIES.

(A) Authority to effect the removal of persons from vessels and the exclusion of persons from waterfront facilities is vested in the Coast Guard. Consequently, such removal and exclusion become the responsibility of the Coast Guard. In any case wherein the Naval Intelligence Service recommends the removal of persons from vessels or exclusion of persons from waterfront facilities, the District Intelligence Officer shall submit his recommendation after a careful analysis has been made of the data collected against the individual concerned and after full consideration has been given to the character, adequacy, and sources of the information at hand regarding such individual. The District Coast Guard Officer to whom any such recommendation is submitted shall give it careful consideration.

(B) Since the authority to effect the removal of persons from vessels and the exclusion of persons from the waterfront is vested in the Coast Guard and such action is the responsibility of the Coast Guard, the District Intelligence Officer when making recommendation for removal or exclusion to the District Coast Guard Officer shall summarize each case. The summary should be submitted in two parts, (1) information which may be disclosed to the individual; and (2) confidential information which in no circumstance shall be revealed to the individual or to anyone representing him.

2. It will be noted that the responsibilities of the Naval Intelligence Service as treated within this letter deal solely with the relationship between the Coast Guard and the Naval Intelligence Service, and in nowise restrict acts of Naval Intelligence or relationship with other Government agencies.

3. There will be a free exchange of information between the two services and each shall assist the other to the extent consistent with the proper performance of their respective duties. All officers concerned are directed to cooperate fully in carrying out the purpose and intent of this letter.

/s/ F. J. HORNE

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