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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1942

From: Director of Naval Intelligence.
To: The Naval Intelligence Officers, All Naval
Districts, (except 16).
Intelligence Officer, Potomac River Naval Command.
Intelligence Officer, Severn River Naval Command.
Subject: Delimitation Agreement - Joint Letter Regarding.
Enclosure: (A) Copies of Subject letter.

1. Forwarded herewith for information are sufficient copies of enclosure (A) to supply each Zone and Branch Office throughout the Naval Intelligence Service.
2. It is desired that this enclosure be carefully read and understood by all personnel attached to the District Intelligence Organization, and that it serve as a guide in establishing and maintaining the highest degree of cooperation between the three agencies, without which maximum benefit from the Delimitation Agreement in safeguarding the national interest, cannot be derived.
3. Additional copies, if desired, will be furnished on request.

Declassified / Downgraded to /S/ J. B. W. WALLER
 Auth: EO 12958 J. B. W. WALLER
 D. 21 SEP 98 NCIS 22 By direction.

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December 9, 1942

JOINT LETTER TO:

DIRECTORS OF INTELLIGENCE - SERVICE COMMANDS
DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS
SPECIAL AGENTS IN CHARGE

The Directors of the Military Intelligence Service, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are becoming increasingly concerned at the growing number of instances where friction has occurred in the field between the representatives of these three agencies. This friction in part may be traceable to an overzealous desire on the part of some personnel to fulfill certain conceived responsibilities placed on the three agencies in the present emergency. While a zealous attitude is desirable, it should never interfere with the efficient and effective cooperation existing among the field representatives. It should likewise not reach the extent of beclouding the true and primary task before us, that is, the insurance of victory over our enemies in the present conflict. We are not, and must not be, jealous of the prerogatives or accomplishments of the subscribing agencies, but rather must look upon them as our own successes and as the success of the coordinated efforts of all of us.

It is the desire of the Directors of the three intelligence agencies that a mutual feeling of cooperation exist among the individual representatives in the field. The weekly intelligence conferences, concerning which instructions have been previously issued, present opportunities for full and free discussion of all questions which have arisen or may arise. These conferences and the personal contact which should take place among all the personnel afford an excellent means to accomplish understanding and coordination.

It was the purpose of the delimitation agreement, dated February 9, 1942, to prescribe the primary field of operation so that full coverage would be assured without waste, conflict or friction due to overlapping. It is a working agreement intended to be of benefit to each of the subscribing agencies. It was not the purpose of this agreement to cause friction, but to eliminate it. A practical approach must be made in interpreting the agreement, as it obviously cannot cover every possible situation which may arise. It must be applied locally in a sensible manner to each situation which may arise which has not previously been decided in accordance with its provisions.

It must be recognized that this agreement was reached with no difficulty by the Directors of the three agencies and that there were no mental reservations made by any agency when subscribing to the agreement. Consequently, there can be no justification for reading in the instructions

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or communications that may have been received from the respective headquarters' offices any restrictions or nullifications, in any respect, of the provisions of the arrangement, which these agencies voluntarily entered into and hopefully expected to be of material assistance and benefit, not to one, but to all.

We believe that with a sound understanding of the purposes of the agreement it will be very easy to determine which agency was intended to handle any given situation. It is recognized that each agency may request of the others any information or investigations within their respective fields. It is expected that in the future each of you will feel it is his personal obligation and desire to insure a smooth working program directed toward the safeguarding of the national interest. Any other attitude on your part will not be tolerated.

S/ GEO. V. STRONG

Major General George V. Strong
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department

S/ H. C. TRAIN

Rear Admiral H. C. Train
Director
Office of Naval Intelligence

S/ J. EDGAR HOOVER

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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