



2515-40
2295-80
1605-20-10
IN REPLYING
REFER TO No.
2515/CFBP-jb
1044

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
SECOND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

Camp Elliott, San Diego, California

FEB 11 1942

From: The Commanding General.
To: The Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.
Subject: Subversive Activities, combatting of.

1. In connection with the activities of the Intelligence Section of the staff of this Division to detect and expose attempts to elicit information from personnel of this Division, some funds are needed for unavoidable incidental expenses.

2. It is requested that an allotment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month be made available for this purpose.

CHAS F. B. PRICE

RECORDED

answered by
Ser 02C 4842
in S.C. Files

1365-35-30
AO-287-bm
RESTRICTED

2515-40
2515-15

RESTRICTED

FEB 2 1942

From: The Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments afloat.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.
References: (a) MGC restricted ltr. 2515-40 over AO-287-jg,
dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. restricted ltr. Nav-1435-EL over
AS-5(63), dated 20 Jan., 1942.
Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

T. HOLCOMB

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

2515-40
IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT

AND REFER TO NO.
1365-35-30 30
AO-275-wjs
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 13.

5 September, 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

References: (a) MGC Restricted ltr., 2515-40 over AO-287-
gj, dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-VM over
A8-5(36), dated 2 September, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
Washington, D.C.

Nav-1433-VM
A8-5(36)
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

COPY

September 2, 1941.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 116-41.

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To: All Ships and Stations.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

1. Warning has been previously given that subversive agents are employing attractive women to ask questions of naval and military personnel, both for the purpose of securing information and to instill dubious thoughts.

2. An organized plan for such activity has recently been uncovered, concentrating largely on aviation personnel. This is a proven Nazi activity. Young women in dance halls and other organized places of amusement have memorized questions to be asked, and are trained to remember and report the answers given by service personnel. Recognized Nazi agents are organizing this campaign, which has the twofold purpose of securing valuable information of military value and of suggesting the superiority, amounting to invulnerability, of the German Luftwaffe.

3. Personnel should be warned of this condition, and urged to report any experiences along the above lines to their superior officers.

4. Recently the following enlightening summary appeared in a periodical of national circulation. It is here given because it should assist officers to identify and evaluate demoralizing factor encountered:

"Not so long ago, gimpy little Dr. Goebbels re-outlined his idea of the purpose of all propaganda. Said he: '(We want) to arouse outbursts of fury; to get masses of men on the march; to organize hatred and suspicion - all with ice-cold calculation.'

"To accomplish this end the Nazis have used four familiar techniques: 1) for wearied and worried captive masses, the Nazis provide programs that emphasize their woes, carefully by-passing any German responsibility; 2) for gullible listeners, they furnish scapegoats such as the Jews for troubles of every kind; 3) to wear opponents, they endlessly reiterate unhappy news, such as the fictitious sinking of the ARK ROYAL; 4) to break down confidence in harassed enemy

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

-1-

RESTRICTED

Enclosure

RESTRICTED

governments the Nazis quote and misquote important local sources; for example in one recent week, they misquoted the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN criticizing Churchill, misquoted the august Times discussing supply policies. They evidently felt sure that no average listener would bother to check up on their accuracy."

C. W. NIMITZ.

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

2515-40
IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO No.

1365-35-30

AO-275-wjs

RESTRICTED

2515-40

RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 13

5 September, 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.
References: (a) MGC Restricted ltr., 2515-40 over AO-287-
gj, dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-VM over
A8-5(36), dated 2 September, 1941.
Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

Handwritten signature

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

2515-40

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO NO.
1365-35-30
AO-275-wjs
RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

27 August, 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

References: (a) MGC Restricted ltr., 2515-40 over AO-287-
gj, dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-VM over
A8-5(46), dated 26 August, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

T. HOLCOMB

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

Washington, D.C.

RESTRICTED

Nav-1433-VM
A8-5(46)

COPY

August 26, 1941.

RESTRICTED

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 110-41.

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To: All Ships and Stations.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

1. In the present emergency, men are being called upon for greater and more sustained exertions, and are receiving less liberty and other privileges due to the exigencies of the service. The increase in the number of vessels is in so much greater proportion than the number of competent petty officers and other experienced men that duties are increasingly difficult, at the same time that benefits are less obvious.

2. Men who "joined the Navy to see the world", or to learn a trade, or because work was hard to find, are now in a situation entirely different from that anticipated at the time of enlistment.

3. The problem of morale created by these conditions can be effectively met with constructive effect if the men understand thoroughly the factors bringing about these conditions. Officers experienced in command of men know that best results are always obtained when the men "know what it is all about". Men who suffer inconvenience or discomfort will feel resentment if they have any reason to believe the cause is lack of foresight or consideration; but they will bear cheerfully if they know it is necessary for the cooperative attainment of desirable goals.

4. Men will also bear unpleasant situations much better if they know that their officers understand and are trying to improve matters, or are even bothered by the same or similar conditions or worse.

5. Officers in contact with men will do well to make certain that the men understand that the country - America itself, not just Great Britain and South America - is facing a serious emergency; that the rapid development of great naval power with maximum efficiency is the first re-

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

Enclosure (A)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

quirement of national safety. They must develop a personal interest in this necessity. They must understand about the present great effort to secure adequate numbers of suitable recruits. They must be helped to understand the difficulties faced by the President, the Secretary of the Navy, and the whole Navy down to their division officer. The "breaking in" of reserves and recruits, the decreasing proportion on each ship of men capable of handling matters requiring training and experience, the changes of base and home port, the sustained cruises and shorter periods ashore; - all the things that distinguish the present period from normal, peacetime, nonemergency navy life, must be accounted for in terms of unavoidable contributions toward the development of the "first line of defense" into a great, two-ocean bastion capable of defying even a world dominated by dictators.

6. Officers can so present this subject to their men that, with proper understanding of causes and reasons, and appreciation of the efforts of their superiors to alleviate and overcome deficiencies, morale will actually improve along with efficiency and the determination of each to play his part wholeheartedly in the effort which requires the fullest support from all.

C. W. NIMITZ

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

2515-40 ✓
IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO No.

1365-35-30 20
AQ-311-tfc



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON 7 August 1941.

RESTRICTED

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: All Commanding Officers.
Subject: Subversive activities - combatting of.
Reference: (a) Let. Bur. of Nav. to all ships and stations.

1. The following is quoted from reference (a):

"1. In the British Navy, officers and men are required to report receipt of all mail other than that from usual, expected and known sources. It has been found that many ingenious methods have been used to induce replies to letters, advertisements, offers of all kinds, etc. From the replies, it is possible to gain information about the locations and movements of naval vessels. It is likely that similar means are being or will be employed in connection with our own navy. Officers are hereby warned of this situation. Enlisted men should be advised to report receipt of any mail, from whatever source, which is not anticipated.

"2. Recently an employee of an important Naval shore activity, who possessed vital defense secrets, was approached by a neighbor with whom he had had no previous relations. This neighbor was fully informed as to the nature of the naval employee's duties, and extended considerable hospitality of an expensive nature. The employee reported the matter directly to the Office of Naval Intelligence, which identified the neighbor as an agent of a foreign government.

"3. Lessons learned from the above incident are:

- (a) Foreign agents, often well informed, are seeking contacts with individuals possessing information of value to an enemy.
- (b) The proper procedure, when such a contact is made or suspected, is to report the situation at once to the Office of Naval Intelligence - by way of the Intelligence Officer aboard ship, or attached to the shore station.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

275-40
IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO No.

1365-35-30 20
AQ-311-tfc



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON 7 August 1941.

RESTRICTED

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: All Commanding Officers.
Subject: Subversive activities - combatting of.
Reference: (a) Let. Bur. of Nav. to all ships and stations.

1. The following is quoted from reference (a):

"1. In the British Navy, officers and men are required to report receipt of all mail other than that from usual, expected and known sources. It has been found that many ingenious methods have been used to induce replies to letters, advertisements, offers of all kinds, etc. From the replies, it is possible to gain information about the locations and movements of naval vessels. It is likely that similar means are being or will be employed in connection with our own navy. Officers are hereby warned of this situation. Enlisted men should be advised to report receipt of any mail, from whatever source, which is not anticipated.

"2. Recently an employee of an important Naval shore activity, who possessed vital defense secrets, was approached by a neighbor with whom he had had no previous relations. This neighbor was fully informed as to the nature of the naval employee's duties, and extended considerable hospitality of an expensive nature. The employee reported the matter directly to the Office of Naval Intelligence, which identified the neighbor as an agent of a foreign government.

"3. Lessons learned from the incident are:

- (a) Foreign agents, often well informed, are seeking contacts with individuals possessing information of value to an enemy.
- (b) The proper procedure, when contact is made or suspected, is to report the matter at once to the Office of Naval Intelligence, by way of the Intelligence Officer aboard ship, or attached to the shore station.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

~~RESTRICTED~~

RESTRICTED

Enlisted men or civilian employees should report to their division officers, who will pass the information on to the Office of Naval Intelligence.

"NO MENTION OF THE CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE TO ANYONE ELSE - FAMILY, FRIENDS, SHIP OR OFFICE MATES ALL INCLUDED!"

[Signature]
T. HOLCOMB

RESTRICTED

~~RESTRICTED~~

*on for mine
7 Aug 41*

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

2515-40
IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO No.
1365-35-30 20
AO-275-1dr
RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

6 August, 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

References: (a) MGC Restricted ltr., 2515-40 over AO-287-gj,
dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-SS over
A8-5(36), dated 5 August, 1941.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

T. HOLCOMB

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

OK for
mines
CFC
7 Aug 41

Nav-1433-SS
AS-5(36)

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
Washington, D.C.

RESTRICTED

August 5, 1941.

RESTRICTED

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 100-41

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To: All Ships and Stations.

Subject: Subversive activities - Combatting of.

1. Information has been received shedding light on Communist tactics, having a bearing on military training. Members of the Young Communists League are instructed to volunteer for military training, and then "infiltrate" the armed forces. They are instructed (when drafted, for instance) to behave as well as possible for the first three months; make friends and establish an outside postoffice address. They then begin the distribution of Communist literature and start "units of education," each consisting of not more than three men.

2. There is no reason to believe that similar activities will not be attempted in the Navy.

3. Professors of Naval Science and Tactics are urged to be on the lookout for such activities, particularly in the selection of candidates for admission to training courses.

4. Officers of V-7 and V-5 training programs are urged to maintain utmost vigilance in the endeavor to detect such infiltration.

5. Commandants of training stations and all others having new recruits under their command will do well to exercise vigilance with the above outlined policy in mind.

C. W. NIMITZ.

Department Distribution:

I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X(a, b, c).

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

1365-35-30
2515-40
Nav-1433-MHB
A8-5(36)

Navy Department
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
Washington, D. C.

July 29, 1941.

R E S T R I C T E D

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 95-41.

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To : All Ships and Stations.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

1. Subversive agents are often carefully trained and skillfully advised in their attacks upon the morale of men in the services. Their angles of approach are often carefully calculated and psychologically strategic. Even where they fail to build up any ideas of their own, they are sometimes successful in distributing or destroying existing loyalty and confidence.

2. A major technique in accomplishing the latter result is that of distraction from the main issue -- the "side issue" or the "red-herring" technique. This consists of picking one or more minor points, convincing the victim that there is something questionable about them, and then creating suspicion that there are other things just as dubious.

3. A typical example would be to denounce England -- to expound on the evils of the British Empire; to impugn the motives and ideals of the English; -- and then to suggest that the United States is being lured by England to "pull its chestnuts out of the fire." Such an argument, of course, avoids the main point -- that, regardless of England, it is American safety, American ideals, and American interests which demand that we resist Axis attempts at world domination, and support any nations now actively resisting the Axis.

4. Another example would be to speak of profiteering manufacturers and striking or highly paid workers in defense industries; to point out that prominent financiers and manufacturers are active "interventionists," and to declare, on such evidence, that "the interests" or "the wealthy" or "the Morgans" or "the international bankers" are trying to provoke us into war for their own benefits. This argument avoids the fact that "we are all in the same boat," that the Nazis, etc., have been enemies of labor and of the poor man just as much as or even more than of the more fortunate. (Evidence: the worker in Axis countries have nothing to say about where he works, what kind of work he does, how long he works, or how much he is paid; and he has very little to say about how he will spend his small wages.) As

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 725120

RESTRICTED.

further proof, British labor, as evidenced by Bevin, is in the lead of British resistance to the Nazis; and British labor wanted to re-arm and resist the Axis while Chamberlain was still "appeasing".

5. Still another example is to speak of the danger of sending material, weapons, etc., to England when it is urgently needed here. This ignores the basic factor of time -- that soon we will be producing needed materials on "assembly line" basis, and that what we are sending enables Britain -- already organized for defense -- to hold up and exhaust the Axis while we prepare for our own defense.

6. It is also characteristic of subversive propaganda to decry democracy, pointing to individual examples of incompetence or corruption and to seeming inadequacies of governmental functions; arguments, time-consuming controversies, etc. This sort of attack is often combined with a "whitewash" of totalitarian rule, lauding present or future benefits and efficiency under dictatorship. This attempt to confuse is sometimes surprisingly successful. It completely evades the basic validity of the issue of individual rights and majority rule -- the issue that has been proven time and again every time an oppressed people sought relief from despotism. It is all very well to ignore the facts when one's neighbor is arrested and disappears; but the person to whom this happens finds that he has no rights -- that the political police can dispose of him as they like, and with whatever brutality seems best to them. There is no protection of the individual in a totalitarian state, and the victim learns, too late, that democracy, whatever its defects may be, has erected the surest bulwarks known to man against injustice, exploitation, and "inequality of power and privilege."

7. It is of vital importance for all those capable of exercising leadership and exerting proper influence to be aware of this trick of subversive agents and to be prepared to point out emphatically the real issue -- the true and governing significance-- and so strengthen the faith of those whose intentions and inclinations are sound, but whose education and advantages have not provided them with the mental equipment to resist and disarm the guileful, the tricky, and the treacherous.

/s/ C. W. NIMITZ

Department Distribution:

I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VII, IX, X, (a,b,c,)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

1365-35-30
2515-40

Navy Department - BuNav
Washington, DC

RESTRICTED

Nav-1433-FP
A8-5(36)

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 90-41

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To: All Ships and Stations.

Subject: Subversive Activities - combatting of.

1 Attention is invited to Public Law No. 670 - 76th Congress-Chapter 439 - 3rd Session, H.R. 5138, entitled "An Act to Prohibit certain Subversive Activities; To Amend Certain Provisions of law with Respect to the Admission and Deportation of Aliens; to Require the Fingerprinting and Registration of Aliens; and for other Purposes."

Provision of this act include the following:

"Section 1. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, with intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of the military or naval forces of the United States --

(1) to advise, counsel, urge, or in any manner cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States; or

(2) to distribute any written or printed matter which advises, counsels, or urges insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States."

2 Subversive activities are on the increase, as was expected by all alert and thoughtful persons who understand totalitarian methods. Enlisted men and even officers are the targets of insidious campaigns, designed to undermine their loyalty, divide their allegiance, and conceal the issues of the present conflict and its relation to this country. Such influences, whether from communist, axis, pacifist, or other Anti-American sources, are aimed at the disintegration and destruction of the morale of the armed forces which are charged with the protection of the nation. They are intended to have the degenerative, paralyzing effect of Quisling activities in Norway, of Sudeten activities in Czechoslovakia, or Rexist activities in Belgium; they are aimed at the promotion of demoralization, mutiny, and treason.

3. Armed forces of a democracy are not equipped with Party Members, Political Commissars, Gestapo agents, and other totalitarian functionaries. They cannot and would not maintain naval and military

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

* * * * *

C W NIMITZ

1365-35-30

AQ-311-tfc

2515-40

RESTRICTED

7 August 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: All Commanding Officers.
Subject: Subversive activities - combatting of.
Reference: (a) Let. Bur. of Nav. to all ships and stations.

1. The following is quoted from reference (a):

"1. In the British Navy, officers and men are required to report receipt of all mail other than that from usual, expected and known sources. It has been found that many ingenious methods have been used to induce replies to letters, advertisements, offers of all kinds, etc. From the replies, it is possible to gain information about the locations and movements of naval vessels. It is likely that similar means are being or will be employed in connection with our own navy. Officers are hereby warned of this situation. Enlisted men should be advised to report receipt of any mail, from whatever source, which is not anticipated.

"2. Recently an employee of an important Naval shore activity, who possessed vital defense secrets, was approached by a neighbor with whom he had had no previous relations. This neighbor was fully informed as to the nature of the naval employee's duties, and extended considerable hospitality of an expensive nature. The employee reported the matter directly to the Office of Naval Intelligence, which identified the neighbor as an agent of a foreign government.

"3. Lessons learned from the above incident are:

- (a) Foreign agents, often well informed, are seeking contacts with individuals possessing information of value to an enemy.
- (b) The proper procedure, when such a contact is made or suspected, is to report the situation at once to the Office of Naval Intelligence - by way of the Intelligence Officer aboard ship, or attached to the shore station.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Enlisted men or civilian employees should report to their division officers, who will pass the information on to the Office of Naval Intelligence.

"NO MENTION OF THE CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE TO ANYONE ELSE - FAMILY, FRIENDS, SHIP OR OFFICE MATES ALL INCLUDED!"

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

1365-35-30
AO-275-1dr
RESTRICTED

2515-40

RESTRICTED

6 August, 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.
References: (a) MGC Restricted ltr., 2515-40 over AO-287-gj,
dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-SS over
AS-5(36), dated 5 August, 1941.
Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

1365-35-30
AO-275-bm
RESTRICTED

2515-40

RESTRICTED

30 July, 1941

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

References: (a) MGC Restricted ltr., 2515-40 over AO-287-gj,
dated 18 July, 1941.
(b) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-VH over
AB-5(36), dated 22 July, 1941.
(c) BuNav. Restricted ltr., Nav-1433-FP over
AB-5(36), dated 22 July, 1941.

Enclosures: (A) Copy of reference (b).
(B) Copy of reference (c).

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of reference
(a), additional material relative to subject activities is
forwarded herewith for your information and guidance.

T. HOLCOMB

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO NO.

2515-40
AO-287-gj
RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON

18 July, 1941.

RESTRICTED

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: Commanding Officers of all Marine Corps Posts
and Stations except Marine Detachments Afloat.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.


References: (a) Chief BuNav restricted ltr. Nav-1433-SS,
A8-5(36), dated 11 June, 1941.
(b) Chief BuNav restricted ltr. Nav-1433-SS,
A8-5(36), dated 26 June, 1941.
(c) Chief BuNav restricted ltr. Nav-1433-SS,
A8-5(36), dated 11 July, 1941.

Enclosures: 3.

1. References, (a), (b), and (c), attached, which are excellent portrayals of some of the methods employed by subversive agents and the medium of detection and suppression of such activities, are transmitted for information and guidance of appropriate Marine Corps agencies established for this purpose.

2. Information relative to subject activities should be forwarded to the Chief of Naval Operations (Office of Naval Intelligence) via official channels.

3. Additional material relative to subject activities will be transmitted periodically for information and guidance.


T. HOLCOMB

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

To: The Commanding General, 1st Marine Division,
Fleet Marine Force.
The Commanding General, 2d Marine Division,
Fleet Marine Force.

Secy.

A&I

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

QM

Enclosure: (A) Copy of ltr. from Chief BuNav, NAV-1433-MHB,
AG-5(36), dated 9 June, 1941.

PM

Avia.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith for your
information and such dissemination as you may desire to
make.

Ferr.

Res.

E. A. OSTERMANN

Dir.

Exec.

By direction.

M-1

M-2

M-3

M3 (A)

M3 (C)

M-4

WPS

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

Initial	
<i>Call</i>	Asst. MGC.
<i>WSP</i>	Secy.
	A&I
	QM
	PM
	Avia.
	Ferr.
	Res.
<i>WSP</i>	Dir.
<i>Call</i>	Exec.
	M-1
<i>M-2</i>	M-2
	M-3
	M3 (A)
	M3 (C)
	M-4
	WPS

From:
To:

The Major General Commandant.
The Commanding General, 1st Marine Division,
Fleet Marine Force.
The Commanding General, 2d Marine Division,
Fleet Marine Force.

Subject:

Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

Enclosure:

(A) Copy of ltr. from Chief BuNav, NAV-1433-MHB,
AS-5(36), dated 9 June, 1941.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith for your information and such dissemination as you may desire to make.

E. A. OSTERMANN

By direction.

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

2515-40

AO-275-R.1

RESTRICTED

30 June, 1941.

RESTRICTED

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: The Commanding Officer, Recruit Depot
Detachment, Marine Corps Base, San
Diego, California.
Via: The Commanding General, Marine Corps
Base, San Diego, California.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.
Enclosure: (A) Copy of ltr from Chief BuNav, file
No. NAV-1433-MHB, AG-5(36), dated
9 June, 1941.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith for your information.

E. A. OSTERMANN

By direction.

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

775120

1365-35-30

2515-40

Navy Department, BuNav
Washington, DC
June 26, 1941

From: The Chief of the Bur Nav.
To: All Professors of Naval Science and Tactics.
The Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Midshipmen's
School, Abbott Hall, Northwestern University, Chicago,
Ill.
The Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School,
Prairie State, West 135th St. and North River, New York
City New York.
The CO, NTS, Newport RI
The CO, NTS, Norfolk Va
The CO, NTS, Great Lakes Ill
The CO NTS San Diego Calif

Subject: Subversive Activities - combatting of.

1. Lenin, the greatest Communist of them all, declared as a matter of policy: "Our task is to utilize every manifestation of discontent and to control and utilize every grain of rudimentary protest."

2. This is very closely allied to the fundamental Nazi tactic of sowing seeds of disunity, of capitalizing and inflaming every disruptive influence, every prejudice or aversion, every resentment, every apparent contradiction of interest. It is the spawned, millionfold progeny of the old doctrine of "Divide and rule".

3. In the larger sphere of major tactics, Hitler has made the neutrals suspicious of one another, has made each of them various promises until they were beyond hope of unity or alliance. He weakened them with diversities of doctrine, with internal dissension and external pressure until, one by one, they fell easy prey. This is a part of the same principle -- it is as old as Aesop's fable about the father who gave his sons a bundle of sticks tied together which none of them could break; but when he untied the bundle of sticks and passed out the sticks singly, each of them was easily broken alone.

4. Greatest proof of the recognition of the other aspect of this principle is seen in the length to which dictators go, in their attempt to secure unity within their own hard-driven lands.

5. There is probably no naval officer who does not understand this principle and its application to naval units of command. But the maintenance of the highest possible morale demands constant reminding of the absolutely essential character of the spirit of wholehearted unity.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

6. All relations with enlisted personnel affect this unity favorably or otherwise. Good command builds unity and sound morale. Command "out of tune" disrupts morale and destroys unity. Consideration must be given to this. A division officer who is "doing his job" will find his men anxious to help build and preserve the "esprit de corps" and resentful of any influences of contrary effect. Good service men imbued with this spirit are very helpful, when on leave, in building civilian morale, respect for the service, and in recruiting the kind of men needed for the expansion of the Navy.

7.8 The subject is intangible and abstract; indoctrination by written means is difficult. But it is believed that if officers will give frequent serious, constructive, and sympathetic consideration to the above thoughts, however familiar, a helpful and eminently desirable improvement should develop in the quality of leadership manifested -- the quality above all others essential in the fulfillment of the mission of the Navy.

C W Nimitz.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

In reply address not the signer of
this letter, but Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

NAV-1433-MHB
A8-5(36)

WASHINGTON, D. C.
June 9, 1941

2515-40
R E S T R I C T E D

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To : The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, Newport, R.I.
The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va.
The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill.
The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.

Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

Reference: BuNav restricted ltr. A8-5(36) of May 29, 1941.

1. Subversive agents are often carefully trained and skillfully advised in their attacks upon the morale of men in the services. Their angles of approach are often carefully calculated and psychologically strategic. Even where they fail to build up any ideas of their own, they are sometimes successful in disturbing or destroying existing loyalty and confidence.

2. A major technique in accomplishing the latter result is that of distraction from the main issue -- the "side issue" or the "red-herring" technique. This consists of picking one or more minor points, convincing the victim that there is something questionable about them, and then creating suspicion that there are other things just as dubious.

3. A typical example would be to denounce England -- to expound on the evils of the British Empire; to impugn the motives and ideals of the English; -- and then to suggest that the United States is being lured by England to "pull its chestnuts out of the fire." Such an argument, of course, avoids the main point -- that, regardless of England, it is American safety, American ideals, and American interests which demand that we resist Axis attempts at world domination, and support any nations now actively resisting the Axis.

4. Another example would be to speak of profiteering manufacturers and striking or highly paid workers in defense industries; to point out that prominent financiers and manufacturers are active "interventionists," and to declare, on such evidence, that "the interests" or "the wealthy" or "the Morgans" or "the international bankers" are trying to provoke us into war for their own benefits. This argument avoids the fact that "we are all in the same boat," that the Nazis, etc., have been enemies of labor and of the poor man just as much as or even more than of the more fortunate. (Evidence: the worker in Axis countries has nothing to say about where he works, what kind of work he does, how long he works, or how much he is paid; and he has very

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

little to say about how he will spend his small wages.) As further proof, British labor, as evidenced by Bevin, is in the lead of British resistance to the Nazis; and British labor wanted to re-arm and resist the Axis while Chamberlain was still "appeasing".

5. Still another example is to speak of the danger of sending material, weapons, etc., to England when it is urgently needed here. This ignores the basic factor of time -- that soon we will be producing needed materials on "assembly line" basis, and that what we are sending enables Britain -- already organized for defense -- to hold up and exhaust the Axis while we prepare for our own defense.

6. It is also characteristic of subversive propaganda to decry democracy, pointing to individual examples of incompetence or corruption and to seeming inadequacies of governmental functions; arguments, time-consuming controversies, etc. This sort of attack is often combined with a "whitewash" of totalitarian rule, lauding present or future benefits and efficiency under dictatorship. This attempt to confuse is sometimes surprisingly successful. It completely evades the basic validity of the issue of individual rights and majority rule -- the issue that has been proven time and again every time an oppressed people sought relief from despotism. It is all very well to ignore the facts when one's neighbor is arrested and disappears; but the person to whom this happens finds that he has no rights -- that the political police can dispose of him as they like, and with whatever brutality seems best to them. There is no protection of the individual in a totalitarian state, and the victim learns, too late, that democracy, whatever its defects may be, has erected the surest bulwarks known to man against injustice, exploitation, and "inequality of power and privilege."

7. It is of vital importance for all those capable of exercising leadership and exerting proper influence to be aware of this trick of subversive agents and to be prepared to point out emphatically the real issue -- the true and governing significance -- and so strengthen the faith of those whose intentions and inclinations are sound, but whose education and advantages have not provided them with the mental equipment to resist and disarm the guileful, the tricky, and the treacherous.

C. W. NIMITZ,

Copy to:

SecNav.

Under SecNav.

Asst. SecNav.

C.N.O.

CinCpac

CinClant

CinCaf

Com 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,

10,11,12,13,14,15,16.

Major General Commandant,

U.S. Marine Corps.

Com.Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

O.N.I.

Public Relations.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775120

In reply address not the signer of
this letter, but Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Refer to No.

Nav-1433-VM
A8-5(36)

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.
May 29, 1941

RESTRICTED

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To: The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, Newport, R.I.,
The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va.,
The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill.,
The Commanding Officer, Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.
Subject: Subversive Activities - Combatting of.

1. Attention is invited to Public Law No. 670 - 76th Congress - Chapter 439 - 3rd Session, H.R. 5138, entitled "An Act to Prohibit Certain Subversive Activities; To Amend Certain Provisions of Law with Respect to the Admission and Deportation of Aliens; to Require the Fingerprinting and Registration of Aliens; and for other Purposes."

Provisions of this act include the following:

"Section 1. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, with intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of the military or naval forces of the United States - -

(1) to advise, counsel, urge, or in any manner cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States; or

(2) to distribute any written or printed matter which advises, counsels, or urges insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States."

2. Subversive activities are on the increase, as was expected by all alert and thoughtful persons who understand totalitarian methods. Enlisted men and even officers are the targets of insidious campaigns, designed to undermine their loyalty, divide their allegiance, and conceal the issues of the present conflict and its relation to this country. Such influences, whether from Communist, Axis, pacifist, or other Anti-American sources, are aimed at the disintegration and destruction of the morale of the armed forces which are charged with the protection of the nation. They are intended to have the degenerative, paralyzing effect of Quisling activities in Norway, of Sudeten activities in Czechoslovakia, of Rexist activities in Belgium; they are aimed at the promotion of demoralization, mutiny, and treason.

3. Armed forces of a democracy are not equipped with Party Members, Political Commissars, Gestapo agents, and other totalitarian functionaries. They cannot and would not maintain naval and military personnel in ignorance made even more obscure by the carefully measured and adulterated doses of "enlightenment" from a government propaganda ministry. The common sense

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775120

RESTRICTED

and sound basic attitude of the men, with the benefit of complete freedom to secure information, should ensure the scornful and indignant rejection of subversive ideas.

4. But it is necessary to realize that some agents of alien causes are clever enough to play upon the prejudices and personal aversions and weaknesses of some men, and after some time make a very real impression. The appeal is often to baser instincts, such as jealousy, class or religious distrust, and economic frustration. The higher wages demanded by strikers in defense industries are pointed out to arouse the resentment of the \$21 per month enlisted man, while the same subversive organization or its allies may be provoking the strike in the first place. The defects in the workings of democratic government, such as local or individual corruption or incompetence are played up to create an impression of the inadequacy of our form of government, or to suggest injustice and bias in its effect. At the same time, the totalitarian governments are painted in glowing colors, and they are credited with achievements which would, if true, no doubt prove gratifying as well as surprising to the suppressed people of those lands. Attention is directed to the fact that girls and women are frequently employed in subversive activities.

5. It is of the utmost importance that, in each command, some officer who is deemed particularly competent for the purpose be charged with continuous consideration of the situation in this connection. He should plan to bring informative and inspirational influences to bear, through normal, usual channels. Nothing of this kind should ever suggest compulsion, nor should it interfere with or be too closely linked to entertainment, religious services, or other usual morale building forces.

6. From time to time, it is planned to send out suggestions, many of a practical nature. Suggestions from the field, in this connection, will be welcomed. The primary point is to bring about a very lively consciousness of the nature and danger of subversive activity - to create a constant awareness of its siren, insidious and subtle character; to create a natural suspicion of and resistance to its corrosive influences.

7. The quality of leadership is of vital importance; and the example set by officers can do more than anything else to create a spirit in the men that will be proof against any subversive attack. On the other hand, weaknesses of character in officers, pettiness, injustice, lack of consideration, and other unworthy attributes which may be resented - these have the effect of preparing the ground for the seed of whispered suggestion.

8. A psychology, in the individual, which is effective in combating propaganda is that of concentration on the support of the nation - a singleness of purpose in that direction. If men can be convinced that the fate of America is at stake and that America is in danger, then each situation and each comment or contact would be viewed with the question, "Is this in the interest of defense of America?" It amounts to excluding all matters affecting other countries except America.

2575-40
RESTRICTED

9. Democracy as a way of life - the American way of life - individual rights - equality of opportunity, and of political rights - these have been won gradually over centuries of struggle and sacrifice; and they are still being enlarged and extended and improved in our country. On the other hand, totalitarianism is as old as despotism - it has been disproved a thousand times in the blood and tears of bitter and suffering people. It is about to be disproved again; but its blandishments must not, meantime, be allowed to seduce the thoughts of any of the lads we are calling upon to defend their country.

C. W. NIMITZ.

Copy to:

SecNav.

Under SecNav.

Asst. SecNav.

C.N.O.

CinCpac

CinClant

CinCaf

Com 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,
10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

✓ Major General Commandant,
U.S. Marine Corps.

RESTRICTED