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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
MATERIAL DIVISION OFFICE OF
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
AND REFER TO

4 October 1945

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SMR/je

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Subj: Establishment of an Intelligence Branch for the United States

As a result of the developments of this war, it is believed that the United States has lost completely its security. It is perfectly possible for us to have the finest Navy, the finest Air Force, and the finest Army in the world and still be completely and hopelessly defeated before we can strike a blow.

The two important things for this country after the war are:

- 1) To provide for adequate research and
- 2) To provide for a proper Intelligence Department.

You already have underway the first and I believe that the steps you are taking will eventually lead to proper emphasis being placed on research. In regard to the second, I can see no moves or plans that in the slightest degree are adequate to handle this situation. The most recent move that I know of has been to set up an intelligence branch in the State Department. This is no doubt a good thing. I believe that the idea is that it will to some extent coordinate the efforts of the War and Navy Department intelligence services as well. I have no comment to make on this arrangement except to say that it is wholly and completely inadequate to supply the Services which I believe to be the most important item in the Government today. We should have an Intelligence Branch which would report directly to the President of the United States, which would obtain its appropriations directly from Congress in a lump sum, and which would not be subject to accounting and which would not be under the Civil Service. The members of this organization would have to be chosen on a permanent basis; most of its members would have to spend their entire lives in foreign countries. The head of the organization should be the most carefully selected man in the entire Government setup; he should be given a completely free hand in its organization, and the sole directive of this organization should be to obtain advance information as to what foreign countries are preparing to attack the United States. This organization should not fritter away its efforts by having agents scattered all over the globe but should concentrate on those countries which are able to make


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war against the United States or which may in the near future be able to make war against the United States and especially those whose motives are at the present time unknown. At the moment I would say that three countries qualify for these conditions—Russia, China, and Argentina. The latter is, of course, at the present moment a weak country but could in a few years be converted into a very powerful one. If our forces are withdrawn from Germany in the near future, that country would undoubtedly have to be added to the list. It may be that in a few years France and Great Britain would also be added to the list. I can conceive of conditions arising in Brazil which would make it necessary to establish agents there, and, of course, the situation in Japan will depend entirely upon how long we occupy it. As time goes on and conditions change, it would undoubtedly be desirable to move agents from one country to another, but in any case we should be sure of having two or three years' warning of the intentions of any country with regard to the United States. I do not believe that this is an impossible program nor even a too ambitious one. Other countries do it. I have been informed that the Prime Minister of Great Britain has a foreign intelligence branch which reports directly to him. This information was given to me by a former naval intelligence officer. I don't know whether it is correct or not, but I believe that all countries, after this war, will concentrate on developing and perfecting their intelligence systems, and I firmly believe that if this country does not do the same thing that we will be destroyed some day by a jealous neighbor and without the slightest warning. There are so many new weapons being produced or perfected that would make this possible that I won't enumerate them here.

In conclusion, I believe that the most important thing now to be done in this country is to establish an independent intelligence agency, the sole purpose of which shall be to keep this country informed of the movements of its possible enemies. This agency should not be placed under any Cabinet officer so that it can be submerged when the pinch of funds comes. Also, the placing it under a Cabinet officer is bound to hamper the efforts of its Chief to attain his goal. The adequacy with which we provide this service will probably decide the life of this Nation.



S. M. Robinson
Admiral, USN

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