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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

5 OCT 1948

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Psychological Warfare

1. The National Security Council has, by its approval of NSC 4 and NSC 10/2, taken action with respect to two important phases of psychological warfare. However, it has not yet assured itself that proper plans have been made and the necessary actions taken so that planning and coordination of psychological warfare in the event of war or emergency are properly instituted.

2. On 7 April 1948 the State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Committee, concurring in the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recommended that there be established as soon as practicable under the National Security Council a psychological warfare organization, and the Committee forwarded these views for the consideration of the National Security Council. The Council, however, has never discussed this proposal, except indirectly insofar as it related to the program which was approved as NSC 10/2. I note in the "NSC Status of Projects" that the Department of State has been preparing an amendment to NSC 4 with respect to planning responsibility for wartime implementation of NSC 4, in the light of Council action on the NSC 10 series. However, in the absence of any further action in regard to this problem, the present position is that the Council has made provision for planning for "black" psychological warfare in time of peace and war, but has not provided for the planning of "white" psychological warfare in wartime. By the same token, no provisions has been made for the coordination of "white" and "black" or foreign and domestic programs.

3. In order that the Council may remedy these deficiencies, I suggest that the NSC Staff submit to the Council at the earliest possible date recommendations as to the action to be taken in regard to this situation, with particular reference to the recommendation from SACACC and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that a psychological warfare organization be set up, as soon as practicable, under the National Security Council.

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by R. Rags