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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

August 23, 1949


MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Internal Security

REFERENCES: A. NSC Action No. 235-B
B. NSC 17/6; NSC 17/5

The enclosed copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference to the Executive Secretary, NSC, dated August 4, 1949, is circulated herewith for the information of the National Security Council and of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, who have participated in prior NSC considerations of this subject.

The Department of State advised, on August 19, 1949, that it concurs in the interpretation placed by the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference upon the comments of the Department of State as noted in Reference A.


SIDNEY H. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington, D. C.

August 4, 1949

C O P Y

Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
Old State Department Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Admiral:

Reference is made to your memorandum dated July 18, 1949, which forwarded to the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference the approved Charters of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference and the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security, the document being NSC 17/6.

It is observed that your memorandum of July 18, 1949, reflected that the National Security Council noted the remarks of the Department of State as follows:

"Domestic intelligence concerns information and investigation of espionage, counter-espionage, etc., which pertains to the internal security of the United States and therefore is in subject matter pertinent to the internal affairs of the United States. Foreign intelligence, which pertains to foreign affairs and in subject matter is pertinent to foreign countries, is also concerned with certain intelligence activities in the United States, notably the exploitation for foreign intelligence purposes of refugees, defectors, foreign nationality groups, etc. Coordination of such matters of joint concern to domestic and foreign intelligence should be effected in the Intelligence Advisory Committee with the FBI sitting as a member."

While domestic intelligence does concern information and investigation of espionage, counter-espionage, and so forth, which pertain to the internal security of the United States, it extends to a much broader field than that suggested by the State Department. For example, the FBI requires intelligence information incidental to its varied statutory responsibilities in addition to the Espionage and Sabotage Statutes, and the Armed Services must have strategic intelligence with reference to the vital industries of the United States.

It is noted that the State Department has stated that foreign intelligence is also concerned with certain intelligence activities in the United States, notably the exploitation for foreign intelligence purposes of refugees, defectors, foreign nationality groups, and so forth. It is felt by the members of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference that foreign intelligence is concerned in these domestic matters in the same sense that domestic intelligence is concerned with similar activities abroad. In operating in domestic intelligence, there is not only concern in foreign intelligence, but it is an urgent necessity that information be received regarding such matters as operations of foreign-directed organizations and of dispatch of espionage and sabotage agents to the United States. If the State Department, in its statements, means that the Intelligence Advisory Committee should

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coordinate as between foreign and domestic intelligence, there would seem to be no objection; however, if the State Department means that IAC should coordinate the efforts within the United States in the specified fields, then it would appear that the Intelligence Advisory Committee would be encroaching on the jurisdiction assigned to the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference.

It is deemed desirable by the members of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference that these observations in this connection be forwarded to you in order that the National Security Council may be fully cognizant of the views of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference members.

With expressions of my highest esteem,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. EDGAR HOOVER

Chairman
Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference

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