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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

November 25, 1947

Mr. Souers:

These are drafts of two papers developed from SANACC 304/11 and the discussion of this subject at the second meeting of the Council. Both are now being considered by the Staff.

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NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

to the

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

on

PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

Reference: SANACC 304/11

1. The National Security Council at its second meeting referred SANACC 304/11 to the NSC Staff for revision in the light of the comments at the meeting.

2. SANACC 304/11 appears to be designed to accomplish the following two related but separate purposes:

a. To initiate the conduct of covert psychological operations abroad.

b. To ensure that all overt foreign informational activities and covert psychological operations are carefully coordinated.

3. Therefore, in the interest of security and clarity, the Staff of the National Security Council has prepared separate reports to the National Security Council designed to achieve each of the above purposes. This report deals with the purpose described in 1-a, while NSC _____ deals with the purpose enumerated in 1-b.

4. The enclosed draft directive to the Director of Central Intelligence is believed to be appropriate and adequate action with reference to covert psychological operations abroad. This directive is so designed as to accomplish the following desirable ends:

a. It specifies the reason and the authority for the Council's action;

b. It grants sufficient authority to the Central Intelligence agency, while

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c. At the same time it ensures that CIA will conduct such operations in a manner consistent with our foreign policy and subject to coordination with overt foreign informational activities as envisaged by NSC _____.

d. It does not embarrass any executive department by official contact with such operations.

5. It is therefore recommended that the National Security Council approve and issue the enclosed directive to the Director of Central Intelligence.

SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

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(D R A F T)

DIRECTIVE TO THE
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The National Security Council considers that, in the interest of national security, overt foreign informational activities of the U. S. Government should be supplemented by the initiation of covert psychological operations abroad designed to assist the attainment of U. S. objectives and to counteract the effects of anti-U. S. propaganda.

In view of the close relation of such operations to national intelligence activities and as authorized by Section 102(d)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council hereby directs the Central Intelligence Agency to initiate and conduct, to the extent of available funds, such covert psychological operations against foreign nations as are consistent with and are logically included in its normal activities and are also consistent with U. S. foreign policy, provided that these operations are closely coordinated with overt foreign informational activities of the U. S. Government.

Declassified/Released on 3/3/81
By the National Security Council
under provisions of E.O. 12065
by B. R. [signature]

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