

UNCLASSIFIED

6104

310

INT 780/1

(Classification)

NSC DISTRIBUTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF SECRET OPERATIONS (May 10, 1943)

NUMBER: _____

PRIORITY: URGENT _____

REGULAR _____

ADDRESSEE

COPY
NUMBER

| | |
|---|-------------|
| The President | _____ |
| The Secretary of State | _____ |
| The Secretary of Defense | _____ |
| The Secretary of the Army | _____ |
| The Secretary of the Navy | _____ |
| The Secretary of the Air Force | _____ |
| The Chairman, National Security Resources Board | _____ |
| Executive Secretary, NSC | 10 _____ |
| Director of Central Intelligence | _____ |
| Director, Policy Planning Staff Department of State | _____ |
| Director of Plans and Operations Department of the Army | _____ |
| Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Operations) Department of the Navy | _____ |
| Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations Department of the Air Force | _____ |
| Director of the Joint Staff Joint Chiefs of Staff | _____ |
| State Member, NSC Staff | 6 _____ |

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(INT 780/2

ADDRESSEE

COPY
NUMBER

Army Member, NSC Staff

7

Navy Member, NSC Staff

8

Air Force Member, NSC Staff

9

NSA B. Member, NSC Staff

10

CIA Representative, NSC Staff

11

Assistant Executive Secretary, NSC

12

Coordinator of the Staff, NSC

13

Assistant to the Coordinator, NSC Staff

14

Administrative Asst. to Coordinator

Research Assistant to the Executive Secretary

15

NSC Registry (Permanent File)

16

NSC Files

17

18

Authorized by: S.

Date: 5/10/48

- 2 -

UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFT

UNCLASSIFIED

157780/3
May 10, 1948

Copy No. 14

SUBJECT: COVERT OPERATIONS

THE PROBLEM

1. To consider measures for the furtherance of covert operations in the interest of our national security.

ANALYSIS

2. In time of peace the means employed by a nation to achieve its national objectives are both overt and covert. They range from such overt actions as political alliances, economic measures (as LSP), and "white" informational activities, to such covert operations as unacknowledged support of "friendly" foreign elements, "black" propaganda and even encouragement of underground resistance in hostile states. Covert operations are the traditional policy activities of any foreign office enjoying positive leadership. Covert operations are traditional in many European chancelleries but are relatively unfamiliar to this government.

3. Having assumed greater international responsibilities than ever before in our history and having been engaged in a "cold war" by the full might of the Soviet Union, we cannot afford to leave unmobilized our resources for covert operations. We cannot afford in the future, in perhaps very serious political crises, to rely upon improvised covert operations [REDACTED].

E

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

INT 780/4

4. In NSC 4-a provision was made for the conduct of certain covert psychological operations. The SARACC has considered such matters as utilization of refugees from the USSR in the United States national interest, plans for evacuation of key foreign personnel, demolition of oil facilities, and psychological warfare (SARACC 395, 396, 398, 399 series). In connection with the latter topic, the views of the JCS, concurred in by SARACC, have been referred to the NSC for consideration. It is the opinion of the JCS that from the military point of view there should be established, as soon as practicable, under the NSC, a psychological warfare organization, but with its peacetime scope and activities limited to that of a working nucleus for planning and coordination (SARACC 394/14). The Policy Planning Staff of the Department of State can also submitted informally to the NSC Staff a paper suggesting a unified direction of covert operations.

5. In the light of the above considerations, the NSC Staff has prepared a proposed NSC Directive which is believed to be consistent with the views of the JCS and which is also designed to strengthen and extend current covert operations in the interest of our national security and to provide for plans and preparations for the conduct of covert operations and of the overt phases of psychological warfare in time of war. The staff has also prepared a revision of NSC 4-a

-2-

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

INT 780/5

which renders the latter consistent with the proposed Directive.

CONCLUSION

6. The proposed RSC Directive in annex 1 should be approved, *and is approved*

// The proposed revision of RSC 4-2 in annex 2 should be approved.

UNCLASSIFIED