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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON

INT 444/1

July 15, 1948

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Biological Warfare Intelligence

- REFERENCES:
1. Memorandum of May 22, 1948, from Secretary of Defense to Executive Secretary, NSC, subject: "CIA Survey Group—Item to be Considered as a Matter of High Priority".
  2. Memorandum of May 25, 1948, from Executive Secretary, NSC to CIA Survey Group, subject: "Biological Warfare Intelligence".
  3. Memorandum of May 28, 1948, from Director of Central Intelligence to Secretary of Defense, subject: "Intelligence with Respect to Biological Warfare".

The attached copy of a memorandum from Mr. Allen D. Dulles on behalf of the CIA Survey Group on the subject is forwarded herewith for your information in reply to your request in reference A. that the Survey Group give this subject high priority attention.

Mr. Dulles states that the general study the Survey Group is preparing will "deal with many questions which in one way or another will indirectly concern the field of biological warfare intelligence...."

It is also noted that the Secretary of Defense had requested the Director of Central Intelligence to take maximum efforts to develop better intelligence in the field of biological warfare and to prepare a report for the Secretary of Defense covering present knowledge on this subject. The Director of Central Intelligence informs me that the requested report was made to the Secretary of Defense on May 28, 1948 together with an outline of present and future intelligence programs in this field.

In view of the report of the Director of Central Intelligence and of the intention of the Survey Group to deal with questions that indirectly concern the field of biological warfare, as stated in paragraph 3 of the attached memorandum, I will assume that no further action is necessary on this subject unless you suggest otherwise.

Enclosure: Copy of Memo to Executive Secretary, NSC from Mr. A.D. Dulles, same subject, July 12, 1948

SIDNEY W. SOUERS  
Executive Secretary

cc: Director of Central Intelligence  
CIA Survey Group

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INT 444878  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

12 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. SIDNEY SOMERS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Biological Warfare Intelligence

1. On behalf of the Survey Group, I wish to reply to your memorandum of 25 May 1948, in which you requested the Group to prepare a special report to the National Security Council on the subject of "Biological Warfare Intelligence."

2. After having looked briefly into this question, it is the view of the Survey Group that it would be very difficult and probably unprofitable for the Group to attempt to prepare a special report on biological warfare intelligence. We believe that from the point of view of intelligence policies, organization and methods, it is very difficult to isolate one problem such as this from the intelligence field as a whole. There is the added difficulty that a specialized examination of this question, in order to determine the adequacy of our present state of intelligence and the means of improving it, would require a high degree of technical knowledge which the Survey Group does not possess.

3. In the general study which we are preparing, and in the conclusions which our survey may develop, we expect to deal with many questions which in one way or another will indirectly concern the field of biological warfare intelligence, and it is our view that we can more effectively carry out our mission if we proceed toward a broad examination of the intelligence problem than if we attempt to make special studies in highly technical fields where we are not competent.

/s/ Allen W. Dulles

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