

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
WASHINGTON 25

April 1, 1948

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Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

The Bureau of the Census has been interested for a number of years in the general problems relating to the statistics of foreign population and manpower, the subject of your letter of March 16, 1948.

I have read with interest the memorandum which was prepared by your Inter-Agency Committee on Population and Manpower Studies. There is no question but that steps should be taken in the immediate future to provide for a coordinated inter-agency plan for the collection, evaluation and dissemination of information on this subject. Such information is needed now, and will be needed even more in the future, both for international intelligence and the efficient operation of American programs abroad.

We are in complete accord with the recommendations of your Inter-Agency Committee for the establishment of a central working unit in the Bureau of the Census to acquire and process statistical information on foreign population and manpower. Although it would be necessary to recruit additional professional personnel in order to provide such a group, the Bureau would willingly undertake this task and would make available its present staff of population experts in various fields for consultation and advice on technical problems. (Our staff is now preparing for the 1950 Census of the United States.) In addition, the Bureau's contacts with foreign statistical offices and international organizations would be at the disposal of this group. For several years the Bureau of the Census has maintained, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, a project for the preparation of bibliographies of foreign statistical materials which also could facilitate the work of such a group.

As you know, the organization of such a group in our Bureau would present several administrative problems, the most important of which would be the matter of finance. Unfortunately, no provision has been made in either our 1948 or 1949 budgets for work of this type. In view of the essentiality of the work, however, I believe that it should be possible to find some funds for such work. Once the major problem of financing is solved, we would be glad to proceed with the

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recruitment of a few professionally trained personnel to supplement our existing staff and the provision of suitable space and equipment for this specialized group.

I wish to suggest that we discuss the more specific features of this plan personally within the next week. I should be glad to come to your office during the next week at such time as you may be free for conference on this subject.

Sincerely yours,



J. C. Capt
Director
Bureau of the Census

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