

State

Transcribed 26 June 1952
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1944

SECRET

Dear Bill:

I have before me your plan for the establishment of a central intelligence service contained in your memorandum to the President dated November 18, 1944, which has been referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for comment and recommendations.

This is a subject in which the Department of State has a keen interest. Before your plan came to my notice I was asked by the President for my comments on the organization of foreign intelligence. I have expressed my ideas in a memorandum dated December 15, 1944. I now understand that the War Department, the Navy Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Budget Bureau each has a plan for the organization of an intelligence service. It occurs to me that it would avoid confusion and make for an expeditious handling of the matter if all the operational intelligence agencies concerned would agree on one plan for discussion with the Department of State. When we are in receipt of such a plan supported by the various agencies, I shall be pleased to lay that plan before the appropriate officers of the Department in an endeavor to find a way for this Department to be of the maximum assistance in its realization.

You may be sure that this is a subject which will receive the most careful consideration of this Department, as it will no doubt be most deeply concerned in the provisions of the plan and its methods of operation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ E. R. Stettinius, Jr. This is a TEMPORARY DOCUMENT

General William J. Donovan
Director, Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D. C.

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SECRET

December 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: The Organization of
Foreign Intelligence.

I have read with interest Mr. Lubin's memorandum of October 25 which you forwarded to me on November 16 and I am keenly aware of the importance of providing for a permanent American Foreign Intelligence Service.

The Department for many months has had this full subject under careful consideration, and we have discussed it at some length with the Bureau of the Budget.

I feel it is of the utmost importance that there be established an inter-departmental board with responsibilities for coordinating foreign intelligence activities among the various departments and agencies. As I can conceive it, this board would have the responsibility for seeing that the requirements of all federal departments and agencies were effectively met, and for formulating future policies and programs on foreign intelligence. I think that the State Department representative on this board should act as chairman inasmuch as we have primary responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs.

I am consolidating under General Holmes all of the Department's foreign intelligence work affecting the security of the United States, and I shall ask him to make this one of his first assignments.

If, in the meantime, you would like me to discuss with General Donovan the future status of his organization and the means by which his work might be most effectively coordinated with ours, I should be happy to do so.

E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

SECRET (When Filled In)

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IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT (author, form, addressee, title & length)

Letter from Mr. E.R. Stettinius, Jr. to General Donovan; 1 page.
Memorandum from Mr. E.R. Stettinius, Jr. to President Roosevelt;
1 page, typed.

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Item 14N

ABSTRACT

These correspondences reveal the great division with the government on the subject of establishing a central intelligence service. Mr. Stettinius proposed that OSS and his department, State, get together and formulate a unified front in the battle to get a plan for the central intelligence service accepted.

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[Darling History Transcript]