

In replying refer to

51-336  
M.I.5-6

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1921.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 228.

From: Director, Military Intelligence Division.  
To: All Military Attaches.  
Subject: Policy re obtaining information from civilians or reserve officers traveling in foreign countries.

1. The following policy in regard to obtaining information from civilians or reserve officers traveling in foreign countries has been approved by the Director for the guidance of the Military Intelligence Division and the military attaches:

Information shall not be secured in such a way as to lead to a presumption that the United States is using agents in a friendly foreign country. Therefore civilian travelers will not be asked to submit written reports from a foreign country, either to the military attache or to M.I.D. If the civilian is to be in the capital of the country visited, he will be asked to call upon the military attache to discuss the current situation with him, he having been given a letter of introduction to that military attache.

If the civilian does not plan to visit the foreign capital, he will be requested to notify M.I.D. of his return to the United States and, if passing through Washington, to call at M.I.D. After the traveler returns to the United States, the policy already adopted in connection with the use of questionnaires becomes effective. The military attache, if he sees the traveler, shall be able to inform M.I.D. as to the probable value of the information which might be secured from the individual upon his return to the United States.

This does not preclude the use of resident Americans in foreign countries for securing information for the military attaches.

For the Director, Military Intelligence Division:

W. A. COPTHORNE,  
Major, C. A. C.,  
Acting Chief of M.I.5.

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DIA review(s) completed.