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AGENCY
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ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL REPOSITORY AND THE MEANS FOR
EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF CAPTURED JAPANESE
DOCUMENTS UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

THE PROBLEM

1. To provide a central repository and the means for exploitation for all captured Japanese documents held by government agencies under one central government agency.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. The Washington Document Center (WDC) was established on 14 February 1945 under the Director of Naval Intelligence as a central agency for the handling of captured Japanese documents with close working liaison with PacMirs. On 9 April 1946, PacMirs transferred their personnel to W.D.C.

3. Documents:

(a) The Washington Document Center (Advanced) in Tokyo collected approximately 800 tons of documents. The major portion of these or approximately 700,000 documents have been received in W.D.C., Washington, D.C. This collection is perhaps the most complete source of information on the entire Far East in the world today and contains information of value to our many government agencies and industry.

The major Japanese sources contributing to this collection are:

1. Cabinet Secretariat
2. Cabinet Personnel Bureau
3. Cabinet Information Bureau
4. Cabinet Statistics Bureau
5. Cabinet Printing Bureau
6. Patent Bureau
7. Privy Council
8. Dist Secretariats
9. Foreign Ministry (and East Asia Ministry)
10. Home Ministry
11. Munitions Ministry
12. Finance Ministry
13. Transport Ministry
14. Commerce and Industry Ministry
15. Agriculture and Forestry Ministry
16. Education Ministry
17. Central Meteorological Observatory
18. Welfare Ministry
19. Justice Ministry
20. Metropolitan Police Board
21. Military Police Headquarters
22. No. 1 Demobilization Ministry (Army Ministry)
23. No. 2 Demobilization Ministry (Navy Ministry)
24. South Manchurian Railway Library
25. East Asia Research Institute.

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South Manchurian Railway Library and the East Asia Research Institute Collection deserves special mention. The former was one of the major weapons in Japan's expansionist program and a vital force in her domination of Manchuria and North China. The library contained about 100,000 volumes and some 500 periodical files; these are, in the main, standard reference works on all parts of East Asia. The East Asia Research Institute was an organization set up by the Japanese Government to carry out research and act in an advisory capacity on all kinds of Asiatic problems. They prepared studies and compilations on natural resources, population distribution, agricultural processes and similar subjects. A large staff of experts in Asiatic languages, anthropology, geology, etc. was employed in the institute and they accumulated a copious library, similar in contents to that of the SMR, but of a more technical nature. Both SMR and EARI were intelligence agencies which furnished Imperial Japanese ORG and other Imperial agencies with economic, political, sociological, topographic and who's who intelligence on strategic areas in the Far East. Both of these collections were impounded in total.

The Mitsubishi Research Library contains 50,000 volumes and is one of the best libraries known on Asiatic economics, trade, finance, and industry and eventually will be sent to WDC.

(b) In addition to the foregoing captured Japanese documents, W.D.C. maintains files of intelligence documents (in English) on the Far East, including translations, evacuated to the United States from such field intelligence agencies as WDC (advanced) ATIS, JICPOA, CINCPAG-CINCPMA, PRATIC, NAVTECHJAP, USSBS AND OSS.

(c) A Statistical Summary for period 5 March 1948 to 9 September 1948 is contained in Enclosure (A).

EO 12958

4. A list of agencies from whom requests for documents have been received, is contained in Enclosure (B). There are 1783 requests now pending.

5. Personnel: A total of 212 officers, enlisted and civilian personnel from U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, [redacted] resources are presently employed in the Washington Document Center as shown in Enclosure (c).

6. Location and Space: The Washington Document Center occupies the 4th, 5th and 6th floors of the Stuart Building, located at 5th and K streets, N.W. These three floors comprise an area of 36,526 square feet. At present the Library occupies [redacted]

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approximately 8,000 square feet. When all documents have been removed from containers and placed on shelves, it is estimated that the library needs will amount to 17,000 square feet. The remainder of the space is required for personnel and the facilities needed in the processing and publishing of documents.

DISCUSSION

6. Due to limitations of funds and personnel, it has been jointly proposed that:

(a) The Intelligence Division, War Department will continue participation with Office of Naval Intelligence at the Washington Document Center with present strength until on or about 1 October 1946.

(b) From 1 October 1946 until 1 December 1946 the Intelligence Division, War Department will participate in the exploitation of Japanese documents at Washington Document Center at a reduced strength utilizing only officer and enlisted personnel.

(c) As of 1 December 1946 Office of Naval Intelligence will assume responsibility for the custody and maintenance of the Japanese documents held by the Washington Document Center. Intelligence Division participation will be limited to that of a small liaison section whose function will be to serve the requirements of the Intelligence Division for Japanese Documents.

7. Employment of U.S. Navy personnel will be seriously reduced as the present allowance is set up as an interim project until 1 December 1946. Only such personnel as can be provided from other approved allowances can be made available after that date. At the most, this can only be expected to provide library services until 1 July 1947 at which time other or final disposition must be made of these documents.

8. The space now assigned the Washington Document Center in the Stewart Building would normally come up for review on 1 January 1947. However, pressure is now being exerted to contract as much as possible current space requirements and in particular the Washington Document Center.

9. The importance of the full and timely exploitation of these documents can not be overemphasized. The Publications Board has expressed a special interest in 75,000 technical volumes of which number approximately 50,000 are patents. With the personnel currently available, it is anticipated that little beyond the complete cataloging and filing can be accomplished by 1 December 1946.

10. At present there exists no organization charged with controlling, coordinating,

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ating, processing and exploiting captured enemy documents dispersed among government agencies, nor is there a central repository or reference library for captured documents. The need for centralized control of captured documents is necessary in order to eliminate duplication of effort by government agencies and provide an efficient means of exploiting enemy documents. By 1 December 1946 it is anticipated that the collection of captured Japanese documents held by the Washington Document Center will be in such condition as to permit a turnover of these documents to any centralized authority which may be established.

11. Paragraph 3.0 of the President's letter of 22 January 1946 authorized the Director of Central Intelligence to perform for the benefit of said intelligence agencies such services of common concern as the National Intelligence Authority determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally.

CONCLUSIONS

12. That the Washington Document Center contains the most complete and valuable collection of Japanese documents on the Far East available in one library in the world today.

13. That the exploitation of these documents faces serious curtailment due to present lack of funds and the consequent loss of the best qualified group of personnel assembled for such a project.

14. That as of 9 September 1946, 225,000 of these Japanese documents remained unprocessed.

15. That other than the Washington Document Center there is no government agency charged with the exploitation and dissemination of captured Japanese documents and this Center will cease to exist except as a library after 1 December 1946.

16. That the operation of the Washington Document Center is such a service of common concern as was authorized by the President in his letter of 22 January 1946 to be performed by the Director of Central Intelligence for the benefit of all the intelligence agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. That the Director of Central Intelligence perform for the benefit of all the intelligence agencies of the government the services now being performed

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by the Washington Document Center in connection with the processing, dissemination and housing of these documents and that it provide the final repository for same.

18. That the Washington Document Center be transferred to the Central Intelligence Group as early as possible and prior to 1 December 1948.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

WASHINGTON DOCUMENT CENTER

Statistical Summary - 5 March 1945 to 9 September 1946

A. Documents	
1. Documents processed	364,479
a. Catalogued	134,300
b. Burned	16,741
c. Library of Congress	13,820
d. Inter-Departmental Committee	1,717
e. Germany documents on Far East	3,000
f. Uncatalogued	196,401
2. Documents unprocessed (approximate)	225,000
3. Intelligence Publications & Translations (JICPOA-ATIS etc. files)	<u>120,000</u>
Total documents	709,479
B. Translations published	484
C. Requests for translations pending	1,763
D. "A" Projects not yet translated	36

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III. Requesting Agencies:

United States Armed Forces Pacific
South East Asia Command
Joint Intelligence Staff
Chemical Warfare Service
Office of Quartermaster General
Chief Signal Officer
Office of Chief Engineers
Army Map Service
Office of Chief of Ordnance
Office of Chief of Transportation
Office of Surgeon General
Army Air Force
Army Ground Forces
Industrial College Armed Forces
National War College
Naval War College
Armed Forces Staff College
Joint Army Navy Air Intelligence Division
State Department
White House Office (Special Ass't to The President)
Publications Board

Joint Staff Mission
[REDACTED]

Army Staff
Joint Committee Army Scientific and Technology
Military Mission - Air, Naval and Military
Military Intelligence Headquarters, Ottawa
Intelligence Group, Intelligence Division
Office of Naval Intelligence
Naval Intelligence
Naval Communications
NOL
BuShips
U.S.N.C.
COMSEVENTHFLT
BUARDS & DOCKS
BORD
BUMED
ORI
Naval Command - SSU

Annex 2 to Appendix "A"

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Washington Document Center
Stewart Building
6th & K St., NW

Personnel Strength of Washington Document Center as of 23 September 1948

Officers	U.S. Army AGP	CONFIDENTIAL			U.S. Navy			TOTAL
					FB	CA	CA	
Linguist	10	7	6/2	8	43	0	0	78
Non-Linguist	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
Enlisted Men								
Linguist	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	26
Non-Linguist	23	0	0	0	4	0	0	32
Enlisted Women								
Linguist	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Non-Linguist	15	0	0	0	3	0	0	20
Civilians								
Linguist	21	0	0	0	1	0	0	22
Non-Linguist	12	0	0/1	1	8	0	0	20
Linguist	58	10	6/2	8	44	0	0	128
TOTAL								
Non-Linguist	<u>66</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0/1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>64</u>
Aggr.	124	10	6/3	9	60	0	0	212



Annex 3. to Appendix "A"

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