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INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

EMPLOYMENT OF RESERVE OFFICERS AS AGENTS

Memorandum by the Secretary

Pursuant to a request by the Acting Chief of Naval Intelligence the enclosed paper is circulated herewith for consideration of the Intelligence Advisory Board at its next meeting.

FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD:


J. S. EARMAN

Secretary, N.I.A.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
26-Aug-2008

HR 70-14
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EMPLOYMENT OF RESERVE OFFICERS AS AGENTS

THE PROBLEM

1. To establish procedures to be followed when employing Reserve Officers of one of the military services as agents abroad.

FACTS

2. (a) Naval Reserve Officers, in order to travel outside the continental limits, must request permission of the commandant of the district in which they reside.

(b) Naval Reserve Officers traveling outside the continental limits are instructed to report by letter or in person to the Naval Attache or Senior American Naval Officer in each country visited.

(c) Persons seeking visas are usually interrogated regarding their membership in Regular or Reserve military organizations of the countries of which they are citizens.

(d) The names of members of the Naval Reserve are published and obtainable by anyone so desiring them.

(e) Uncoordinated activities by agents in the same area, due to uncertainty as to motives and intentions, might result in confusion and wasted effort.

DISCUSSION

3. Membership in a reserve military organization is a fact regarding citizens traveling outside the continental limits which is brought out by interrogation in connection with the procurement of visas or is otherwise known and, since such membership is likely to result in close observation of those persons, it is believed that they are not the most suitable for employment as agents. Furthermore, since exposure will result in embarrassment to the connected service, it is considered that the Reserve personnel of one service should not ordinarily be employed as agents by another service. Naval personnel are now required to report to the Naval Attache or Senior American Naval Officer in

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each country visited. The War Department may have similar established procedures for military personnel. If acting as agents such contacts by Reserve personnel are apt to jeopardize their missions. Therefore, in cases where naval or military personnel are employed as agents, it is believed that procedures requiring contact with local State, War and Navy representatives should be eliminated.

4. When agents of the same country are working in the same area, it is believed fundamental that unless their activities are coordinated they are apt to result in interference, duplication and even confusion and loss of effectiveness. Consequently, it is submitted that, if casual agents are employed by any of the departments, the activities of such agents should be coordinated by the Director of Central Intelligence with those of the organized group operating under him.

CONCLUSIONS

5. It is concluded that:

(a) Reserve military or naval personnel should not be employed as agents unless the information desired is most important and can not otherwise be obtained.

(b) Members in the Reserve of one military service should ordinarily not be employed as agents by and only after informing the other service.

(c) When Reserve personnel are employed as agents, procedures requiring them to report to local State, War and Navy representatives should be eliminated.

(d) When casual agents are employed by one department their activities should be coordinated with all other such activities by the Director of Central Intelligence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is recommended that:

(a) This problem be submitted to ICAPS for study and recommendation.

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(b) This problem be submitted to the IAB for discussion at the next meeting thereof.

(c) The conclusions (a), (b), (c) and (d) above be considered with the view to adopting them as the controlling policy in this matter.

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