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1 July 1946

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY

PROVISION FOR COORDINATING THE ACQUISITION  
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Report by the Director of Central Intelligence  
with the unanimous concurrence of the  
Intelligence Advisory Board

1. It has been suggested by the Librarian of Congress that an Inter-departmental Committee on the Acquisition of Foreign Publications, such as that which existed during the war, should be established on a permanent basis. The Department of State supports the principle embodied in this suggestion.

2. The matter was laid before the Director by letter of Mr. Alfred McCormack, dated 4 March 1946.

3. After consideration of all evidence assembled in the case, the Director of Central Intelligence concludes that:-

a. The continuation, on a permanent basis, of an inter-departmental committee to coordinate the acquisition of foreign publications for the use of government agencies is necessary in the interest of economy and efficiency.

b. The materials collected as a result of the committee's activities will contain much information needed for the production of intelligence related to the national security. Therefore, the N.I.A. should assume responsibility in the matter.

c. The organization of the committee on a permanent basis should be arranged for by the Director of Central Intelligence. The Department of State should administer the committee and continue to furnish the Secretariat. Since the committee will deal largely with matters of library

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techniques, the Librarian of Congress would be an appropriate chairman; and he has, in fact, expressed his willingness to accept such position.

Discussion upon which these conclusions are based is contained in Enclosure "B".

4. The enclosed draft N.I.A. Directive has been prepared to provide the means for carrying out the recommendations based upon the above conclusions. It has been unanimously concurred in by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Intelligence Advisory Board, which included the Librarian of Congress and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

5. It is recommended that the National Intelligence Authority approve the draft directive in Enclosure "A".

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ENCLOSURE "A"

D R A F T

PROPOSED N.I.A. DIRECTIVE

PROVISION FOR COORDINATING THE  
ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Paragraph 1 of the letter from the President, dated 22 January 1946, designated this Authority as responsible for planning, developing, and coordinating the Federal foreign intelligence activities so as to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security. Since the mass of foreign publications required by the various Federal agencies, as references useful in the conduct of their business, contains matter of value as intelligence information related to the national security, the following policies and procedures relating to the acquisition of foreign publications, are announced:

1. A permanent Inter-departmental Committee on the Acquisition of Foreign Publications is hereby established as a subordinate agency of the National Intelligence Authority. The Department of State will administer the committee and furnish the Secretariat therefor.

2. The Director of Central Intelligence will invite the Librarian of Congress to accept the Chairmanship of the Committee and will send invitations for membership on the Committee to representatives of all Federal agencies interested in the acquisition of foreign publications for the conduct of their business.

3. The Committee will have duties and responsibilities as follows:

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a. To coordinate cooperative acquisition as between and among the several departments and agencies. The scope of this coordination shall include the establishment of agreed policies and procedures for the maintenance of comprehensive collections of library materials, in appropriate locations, the rapid interchange and loan of such materials, and the distribution of bibliographical information. These coordinating responsibilities are distinct from and therefore will not interfere with the usual responsibilities of individual agencies for the maintenance of working collections of library materials necessary to the transaction of their business.

b. To originate recommendations to the several departments and agencies concerning the development of their libraries within a framework of over-all Federal acquisitions, such recommendations to be designed to make available to this Government, with minimum duplication, all foreign library materials necessary to the conduct of the public business.

c. To originate recommendations to the Department of State on matters of broad policy connected with the procurement of foreign library materials through the Foreign Service, in so far as they pertain to servicing the acquisitions needs of the Federal Establishment as a whole.

d. To review requisitions on the State Department procurement facilities whenever it is necessary to determine whether said requisitions are consistent with the Committee's comprehensive acquisitions program.

4. The Director of Central Intelligence will designate a representative to act with the Committee as the Vice-Chairman and to be responsible for ensuring that the Committee's activities make adequate provision for the securing of intelligence information related to the national security.

ENCLOSURE "B"

DISCUSSION

1. Immediately prior to and during the war, the Coordinator of Information and later the Office of Strategic Services furnished the Secretariat of an Interdepartmental Committee on the Acquisition of Foreign Publications. That Secretariat was taken over, under proper authority, by the State Department, as a part of the Research and Analysis Branch of O.S.S., and still functions under the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Research and Intelligence.

2. The primary concern of such parts of this existing and continuing Committee as are within the departments whose heads constitute the N.I.A. is foreign publications having possible intelligence information value in connection with the intelligence mission concerned with the national security.

3. Other Federal agencies, not primarily concerned with intelligence bearing on the national security, are also interested in the acquisition of foreign publications. Some twenty-one (21) Federal agencies have shown an interest in the matter and manifested that interest by sending representatives to meetings held in the office of the Librarian of Congress on 7 September and 25 October 1945. These meetings considered the coordination of the procurement effort, but had neither formal authority nor power to act.

4. The procurement of desired foreign publications for the interested agencies is accomplished in large measure by the State Department through its missions abroad. Payment for publications is made to State by the agency for which publications are procured.

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5. Certain Foreign Service Officers (eleven at last report) are about to go out to the most important foreign publishing centers with the sole duty of organizing the acquisition service and preparing bibliographical indices of available publications.

6. The Librarian of Congress, Dr. Luther H. Evans, feels that the problem of coordinating the Acquisition of Foreign Publications is a technical library matter. The Director of Central Intelligence concurs substantially in that view, although important matters of policy are also involved.

7. Dr. Evans submitted to the Secretary of State, on 26 October 1945, an outline of the coordinating committee which he feels can govern properly the acquisition of foreign publications. The results of Dr. Evans' study are incorporated in the recommendations made herewith.

8. The interest of N.I.A. in the problem is due to its continuing responsibility for coordinating the collection of intelligence information bearing upon the national security, and the fact that some of the publications acquired will have value in that connection. Therefore, this is an undertaking which can be most efficiently initiated and organized by N.I.A. action.

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