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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

PRODUCTION OF POLITICAL-  
PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY ON U.S.S.R.

Memorandum by the Secretary

At the request of the Chief of Naval Intelligence, the enclosed memorandum has been assigned to the Interdepartmental Coordinating and Planning Staff for study and recommendation, and is circulated herewith for discussion at the next meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Board.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.

Secretary, N.I.A.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:  
26-Aug-2008

HR 70-14  
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ENCLOSURE

MEMORANDUM BY THE CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

THE PROBLEM

To arrange for the production of a comprehensive political-psychological study on the U.S.S.R.

FACTS

No political-psychological study on the U.S.S.R. is now available.

Dr. Ladislav Farago, who was associated with the U. S. Navy in the Psychological Warfare Group during World War II, and is the author of "German Psychological Warfare" and "Axis Grand Strategy", as well as a comprehensive compendium on Japanese Psychology, has informed a representative of the Navy Department of his willingness to undertake a comprehensive political-psychological study on the U.S.S.R. Dr. Farago states that he can complete such a study in manuscript form about 1 February 1947, and that his fee therefor will be nominal.

DISCUSSION

Psychological warfare, although new, is now a proven weapon. In future wars it can be expected to play an even greater role than it did in World War II. It is submitted that the experience gained through operations in the late conflict can best be exploited and the interest of psychologists in this field sustained by a study of the problem here presented. Upon the outbreak of hostilities such a study would be an urgent requirement. It would have immediate present value in connection with planning in this field. Since this subject is of mutual concern to the State, War and Navy Departments, it is believed that C.I.G. is the proper agency to arrange for the proposed study.

CONCLUSION

A comprehensive political-psychological study on the U.S.S.R. should be made as soon as practicable.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) That C.I.G. negotiate a contract with a suitable psychologist, such as Dr. Ladislas Farago, for the preparation of a comprehensive political-psychological study on the U.S.S.R.

(b) That the contract should provide for payment of the fee only upon delivery of the study manuscript to the Government, together with all rights thereto.

(c) That the fee for the proposed study be paid out of moneys already made available to the C.I.G. by the State, War and Navy Departments.

(d) That ICAPS be assigned this problem for study and recommendation.

(e) That this problem be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Board.

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