23 March 1946

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FOR RELEASE
BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DATE: 2001

POLICY ON LIQUIDATION OF THE STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the letter from the President dated 22 January 1946 which 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, the following policies and procedures relating to the liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit are announced:

1. The national interest demands that the complete liquidation of SSU shall not be accomplished until it is determined which of its functions and activities are required to be continued and suitable arrangements are made thereafter, in order that its useful assets may be available to the agency or agencies which are to carry on such functions or activities. Such determinations and arrangements shall be made, and the liquidation shall be completed as promptly as possible and prior to 1 July 1947. The War Department will take the necessary budgetary actions to carry out this program.

2. The liquidation of SSU shall be coordinated with the development of the permanent peace-time Federal intelligence program. The Director of Central Intelligence shall issue the necessary directives to effect the liquidation and to provide for this coordination. He will make recommendations to this Authority as to the intelligence activities permanently required in the peace-time intelligence effort.
3. During the period of liquidation, the SSU should be administered and operated so as to service the intelligence agencies subject to our coordination. The Director of Central Intelligence shall issue the necessary directives to the Director of SSU to ensure that this service is performed so as to accomplish this mission.

4. With respect to any authorized function that is assumed by C.I.O., the Director of Central Intelligence will be responsible for affecting the necessary arrangements whereby personal and facilities of SSU that are useful for the performance of such functions may be transferred to the C.I.O.
MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director, Strategic Services Unit

W A R D E P A R T M E N T
Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director, Strategic Services Unit

Effective immediately, you are directed to commence the liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) as ordered in paragraph 3 of the Executive Order dated 20 September 1945, subject: "Termination of the Office of Strategic Services and Disposition of Its Functions". The liquidation will be completed not later than 30 June 1947.

The liquidation of SSU will be coordinated with the development of the permanent peace-time intelligence program. You will carry out the liquidation in accordance with instructions of the Director of Central Intelligence or his designated representative. The Director or his representative will deal directly with you. He will have such staff as he requires working with SSU.

During the period of liquidation you will administer and operate the SSU so as to service the intelligence agencies under the National Intelligence Authority in accordance with directives provided by the Director of Central Intelligence or his designated representative.

Previous War Department instructions relating to this problem are amended accordingly.

Secretary of War

(Enclosure B)
MEMORANDUM FOR:  Mr. Alfred McCormack
Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg
Rear Adm. Thomas E. Ingris
Brig. Gen. George C. McDonald
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

SUBJECT:  Policy on Liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit

ENCLOSED:
A.  Draft N.I.A. Directive, Same Subject
B.  Draft Directive from the Secretary of War to
    the Director, Strategic Services Unit

REFERENCE:  C.I.S. Directive No. 1

The report, a copy of which you received, of the ad hoc committee established pursuant to C.I.S. Directive No. 1 has been under study by the Central Intelligence Group. Based upon the recommendations contained in that report, the enclosed draft directives have been prepared as a means of implementing those recommendations.

The enclosures, therefore, are transmitted for your consideration and for discussion at a meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Board early next week. Arrangements for this meeting will be made by subsequent communication.

SIR,

S. H. Rogers
Director

Attachments
Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the letter from the President dated 22 January 1946 which 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, the following policies and procedures relating to the liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit are announced:

1. The national interest demands that the complete liquidation of SSU shall not be accomplished until it is determined which of its functions and activities are required for the permanent Federal foreign intelligence program, and should therefore be transferred to the Central Intelligence Group or other agencies in order that its useful assets may not be lost. Such determination and transfer shall be made and the liquidation of the remainder of SSU shall be completed as promptly as possible and prior to 1 July 1947. The Director of Central Intelligence shall issue the necessary directives to effect the liquidation. He will make recommendations to this Authority as to the intelligence activities permanently required in the peace-time effort.

2. During the period of liquidation the SSU should be administered and operated so as to service, to the extent practicable, the intelligence agencies subject to our coordination. The Director of Central Intelligence shall issue the necessary directives to the Director of SSU required to accomplish this mission.
3. The Director of Central Intelligence may direct the transfer, to the Central Intelligence Group unit carried under the Secretary of War, of funds, personnel, and facilities of SSU that are useful for the performance of authorized functions of the Central Intelligence Group.

4. The War Department will take the necessary budgetary action to carry out this program.
MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director, Strategic Services Unit

Effective immediately, you are directed to continue the liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) as ordered in paragraph 3 of the Executive Order dated 20 September 1945, subject: "Termination of the Office of Strategic Services and Disposition of Its Functions". The liquidation will be completed not later than 30 June 1947.

The liquidation of SSU will be coordinated with the development of the permanent peace-time intelligence program. You will carry out the liquidation in accordance with instructions of the Director of Central Intelligence or his designated representative. The Director or his representative will deal directly with you. He will have such staff as he requires working with SSU.

During the period of liquidation you will administer and operate the SSU so as to service the intelligence agencies under the National Intelligence Authority in accordance with directives provided by the Director of Central Intelligence or his designated representative.

Previous War Department instructions relating to this problem are amended accordingly.

Secretary of War

(ENCLOSURE B)
Memorandum for the National Intelligence Authority

Subject: Policy on Liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit

1. O.I.O. Directive No. 1 initiated a survey of the activities of the Strategic Services Unit. This survey has been conducted by an ad hoc committee established by reference directive. The committee was directed to submit a report of findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence, who in turn would prepare suitable recommendations for the action of the National Intelligence Authority after concurrence or dissent by the Intelligence Advisory Board. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (president) as a member of the Advisory Board for consideration of these recommendations.

2. The report has been submitted by the ad hoc committee to the Director of Central Intelligence, who concludes that:

a. The War Department should continue to assume full budgetary responsibility through the Fiscal Year 1947 for the liquidation of SSU and its operations pending such liquidation.

b. The War Department's liquidation of SSU and the further disposition of the resources, facilities, operating functions and personnel of SSU should be under the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence.

g. Pending liquidation the Strategic Services Unit should be administered and operated by the War Department in accordance with directives issued by the Director of Central Intelligence.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

a. The National Intelligence Authority approve the attached draft directive (Enclosure A) subject: "Policy on Liquidation of the Strategic Services Unit".

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2. The Secretary of War be requested to issue the instructions to
the Director of NSV substantially in accordance with the attached draft
(Enclosure B).

SIDNEY V. BOYERS
Director
3. The Director of Central Intelligence will be responsible for determining which funds, personnel and facilities of SSU are required for the performance of an authorized function of the C.I.G.

Such funds, personnel and facilities of SSU will then be transferred to an appropriate War Department unit, subject to provision of the necessary arrangements by the Director of Central Intelligence.