MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Request for Certain FBI material by Private Individuals.

1. Colonel White, FBI, called this afternoon and stated that the attorneys of F. C. Halsey, the British writer who was interned during the war and did several broadcasts for them, have approached the War Department with a view to obtaining recordings of transcriptions of Mr. Halsey's broadcasts in connection with the British author's efforts to clear his name.

2. The War Department's reply, which was being prepared for the Secretary's signature, apparently stated that the War Department did not have primary cognizance of the matter but that the recordings were on file in the National Archives under FBI control and that transcripts could, no doubt, be obtained from the CIA. Colonel White inquired (a) whether it was desirable for the attorneys to address the CIA directly in the matter and (b) whether the material, which is unclassified, should be released.

3. Investigation reveals that the National Archives is the proper public repository for non-current material released to it by the several agencies of the government and is the proper recipient of an inquiry such as that made by Mr. Halsey's attorneys. Since there are adequate reasons within the National Archives for the control of the material upon the releasing agencies have placed restrictions, and since there appears in this case to be no objection to the release of copies of the material in question, it was agreed that Colonel White could ask his War Department contact to add mention of the CIA in the proposed letter and to suggest that the attorneys approach the National Archives direct.

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Chief, Security Branch

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