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MEMORANDUM

Subject: SWNCC 304/1.

The following informal comments are made on subject paper.

Psychological warfare in time of war involves, among other things: (1) policies of politico-military nature; and (2) plans for implementation of these policies.

The State Department has primary interest in our national foreign policy prior to, during, and after a war. Hence, any national psychological warfare policies for use in wartime should in the future be based on the continuing foreign policy desires of the State Department, in consultation (where military aspects are involved) with the War and Navy Departments, or their successors in the organizational structure for national defense.

In time of peace, information (or propaganda) programs relating to our national foreign policy are conducted by the State Department. Plans for implementation of certain phases of these information programs are studied by (1) the SWNCC Subcommittee on Foreign Policy Information (and channelled through the State Department's Office of Public Affairs); and (2) the State Department's Office of International Information of Cultural Affairs (OIC), successor to some of the information activities of wartime OWI, (OIC supervises implementation of its own plans.)

The War and Navy Departments have membership on the SWNCC Subcommittee on Foreign Policy Information, have liaison officers with the OIC, and maintain small departmental sections with cognizance of aspects of psychological warfare affecting military plans and their implementation in time of war.

In any organization, such as is proposed in SWNCC 304/1, for studying (1) psychological warfare policies for use in wartime, and (2) plans for implementation of these policies, it is desirable to take cognizance of past experience. One of the "lessons learned" from World War II in psychological warfare was that the foreign propaganda phase and subversive phase of psychological warfare should be coordinated to be effective. The recommendation in SWNCC 304/1 provides such coordination, for policy and plans purposes. It also provides that if a permanent organization (such as a combination of World War II OSS and OWI) is not set up to implement psychological warfare in a war emergency, the SWNCC Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare, which is recommended, will function until such permanent organization is formed. It is to be noted that one of the tasks suggested for this SWNCC Subcommittee involves ironing out the many details incident to the formation of such a permanent organization for psychological warfare. The ad hoc committee realized that this would take time, and that meanwhile psychological warfare policies and plans for wartime use against potential enemies could be formulated and processed.

The placement of the recommended sub-committee in SWNCC was recommended on the basis that:

(1) The President in the past has been the governing authority with respect to psychological warfare.

(2) Decisions of SWNCC establish the approved policy of the State, War, and Navy Departments, subject to the approval of the President where appropriate. (SWNCC Charter).

(3) SWNCC is designated as the agency to reconcile and coordinate the action to be taken by the State, War, and Navy Departments on matters of common interest, and, under the guidance of the Secretaries of the State, War and Navy Departments, establish policies on politico-military questions referred to it. (SWNCC Charter).

(4) SWNCC obtains views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where military aspects are concerned. (SWNCC Charter).

(5) The Joint Chief of Staff is the agency for disseminating SWNCC policy decisions to the military. (SWNCC Charter).

H. R. THURBER,
Member, IRI Inc. Committee.

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[redacted]. This is a memo for the Navy officer in Navy Dept who handles PW operations from the officer who handles the policy. It is written for the purpose of beating down arguments to place PW in J.C.S. instead of SWNCC.

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