

JOINT PROPOSAL OF THE SECRETARIES OF STATE,
WAR AND NAVY FOR A CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY

As a result of the various criticisms the McCormack plan was entirely eliminated. On 7 January the three Secretaries submitted their unanimous recommendation to the President, together with a draft directive for setting up the National Intelligence Authority and the Central Intelligence Agency. The directive differs from the proposal put forward by the Joint Intelligence Committee almost exactly one year earlier only in the regard that the latter recommended an independent budget for the NIA, whereas the draft directive proposed that funds should be drawn from the departments participating in the NIA. The reason for this difference has already been pointed out.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



January 8, 1946

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL MAGRUDER:

For your information I enclose a copy of a memorandum sent to the President yesterday by the Secretaries of State, War and Navy, enclosing a proposed order establishing a Central Intelligence Agency.

As you will note, the plan proposes a general structure and contains a statement of functions, but leaves undecided most of the questions that have been under discussion between the service departments and the State Department.

McCormack
Alfred McCormack
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

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January 7, 1946

My dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to your letter of September 20, 1945, addressed to the Secretary of State, we have constituted ourselves an inter-departmental group to formulate a plan for your approval for a comprehensive and coordinated foreign intelligence program for all federal agencies concerned with that type of activity.

After extensive study, we have unanimously agreed to recommend to you the plan which is attached hereto.

This plan takes the form of a directive establishing a National Intelligence Authority, composed of the Secretaries of State, War and the Navy, which is charged with the responsibility for such overall intelligence planning and development and such inspection and coordination of all Federal intelligence agencies as to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security. The directive further provides that the National Intelligence Authority shall establish a Central Intelligence Agency, headed by a Director to be appointed

The President

The White House

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by the President on the recommendation of the National Intelligence Authority. The Director is to be advised by an Intelligence Advisory Board, consisting of the heads of the principal military and civilian intelligence agencies having functions related to the national security.

You will note that the plan set forth in the directive contemplates that the Authority, assisted by the Director and the Intelligence Advisory Board, will prepare and submit to you for your approval a basic organizational plan in accordance with the principles set forth in the directive. It is believed to be desirable that the details of the organization should be worked out in the first instance by the officials who will be responsible for its performance.

Accordingly, we recommend that you sign the attached directive.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary of State

Acting Secretary of War

Secretary of the Navy

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DIRECTIVE REGARDING THE COORDINATION OF INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES

In order to provide for the development and coordination of intelligence activities related to the national security:

1. A National Intelligence Authority composed of the Secretaries of State, War and the Navy is hereby established and charged with responsibility for such overall intelligence planning and development, and such inspection and coordination of all Federal intelligence activities, as to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security.

2. To assist it in that task the National Intelligence Authority shall establish a Central Intelligence Agency headed by a Director who shall be appointed or removed by the President on the recommendation of the National Intelligence Authority. The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall be responsible to the National Intelligence Authority and shall sit as a non-voting member thereof. *President's representative*

3. The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall be advised by an Intelligence Advisory Board consisting of the heads of the principal military and civilian intelligence agencies having functions related to the national security, as determined by the National Intelligence Authority.

4. The first duty of the National Intelligence Authority, assisted by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Intelligence Advisory Board, shall be to prepare and submit to the President for his approval a basic organizational plan for implementing this directive in accordance with the concept set forth in the following paragraph. (This plan should include drafts of all necessary legislation.)

5. Subject to the direction and control of the National Intelligence Authority, the Central Intelligence Agency shall:

- (a) Accomplish the ^{collection} synthesis and evaluation of departmental intelligence relating to the national security and other information collected by it and the appropriate dissemination within the government of the resulting strategic and national policy intelligence.

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- (b) Plan for the coordination of the activities of all intelligence agencies of the government having functions related to the national security and recommend to the National Intelligence Authority the establishment of such overall policies and objectives as will assure the most effective accomplishment of the national intelligence mission.
- (c) Perform, for the benefit of departmental intelligence agencies, such services of common concern as the National Intelligence Authority determines can be more efficiently accomplished by a common agency, including the direct procurement of intelligence.
- (d) Perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence as the President and the National Intelligence Authority may from time to time direct.

6. The Central Intelligence Agency shall have no police or law enforcement functions.

7. Subject to coordination by the National Intelligence Authority, the existing intelligence agencies of the government shall continue to collect, evaluate, synthesize and disseminate departmental operating intelligence, herein defined as that intelligence required by the several departments and independent agencies for the performance of their proper functions. Such departmental operating intelligence as designated by the National Intelligence Authority shall be freely available to the Central Intelligence Agency for synthesis. As approved by the National Intelligence Authority, the operations of the departmental intelligence agencies shall be open to inspection by the Central Intelligence Agency in connection with its planning functions. In the interpretation of this paragraph the National Intelligence Authority and the Central Intelligence Agency will be responsible for fully protecting intelligence sources and methods which, due to their nature, have a direct and highly important bearing on military operations.

8. (Funds and personnel for the National Intelligence Authority shall be provided by the departments participating in the National Intelligence Authority in amount and proportions to be agreed upon by the members of the Authority.) Within the limits of the funds made available to him the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency may employ necessary personnel and make provisions for necessary supplies, facilities and services. With the approval of the National Intelligence Authority, he may call upon departments and independent agencies to furnish such specialists as may be required for supervisory and functional positions in the Central Intelligence Agency, including the assignment of military and naval personnel.

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