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Copy to: Mr. J.A. Drew, Ministry of Defence.

Reference: CO3.848/12/5/58

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN WAR - COMPOSITION,
ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONS OF SPA

I attach copies of a note by the Director of Forward Plans on the composition, organisation and functions of the SPA organisation in SIS.

2. I shall show this minute as relevant to your discussion of my minute⁺ on Psychological Warfare in War at your meeting on Tuesday, 13th May 1958.

I think you may wish to comment on this before Sir P. Dean sees.

H. G. CROLY

Secretary,
Chiefs of Staff Committee

Mr Takouddin
Mr ~~Hawley~~ Murray
12th May 1958.

J. Boyd 12/5

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I understand Mr + COS.732/23/4/58.

Murray is attending tomorrow's COS meeting & will require to have the papers for the meeting

Our friends have no comments.

Mr Murray.

J. Takouddin 13/5.

SECRET

J. Boyd 12/5

COPY OF A MINUTE FROM MR. J.A. DREW, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
TO MAJOR GENERAL R.W. McLEOD, DATED 9TH MAY 1958

This is in answer to your request for a note on the composition, organisation and functions of the S.P.A. organisation in S.I.S.

2. S.P.A. was set up nearly two years ago as the operational element in S.I.S. for the conduct of all clandestine subversive operations in support of our oversea policy objectives. It is a functional organisation covering all territories overseas. It is also the operational element for the clandestine propaganda functions of I.R.D.

3. From its inception it has had a Foreign Office adviser, but although D.F.P. has had informal contacts with it since it was established there has, up to the present, been no formal link, either with the defence interest or with the Colonial Office and the Commonwealth Relations Office.

4. As a result of the discussions between the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence and the overseas Departments, under the chairmanship of Sir Norman Brook, it has been agreed that advisers should be appointed to represent the interests of the Colonial Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Ministry of Defence and Chiefs of Staff, on the same footing as the existing Foreign Office Adviser. These representatives will be accepted into S.I.S. as full members of S.P.A., with all files and papers open to their inspection.

The duty of the advisers will be to represent the requirements of their Departments in the field of special operations; to propose plans; to help in their formulation; to provide information and advice about political and (in our case) strategic interests; and to help in the provision of supplies and equipment for particular schemes.

5. It is intended that I should be the Ministry of Defence contact with S.P.A., and that the Army member of this organisation (Major Colbeck) should maintain day to day contacts with them and attend meetings of their planning groups. He will have a desk in Broadway.

6. It is difficult to see how this arrangement will work out until we have had some experience. But I would propose that I should make periodical reports of the progress of policy and planning to the Chiefs of Staff and to take their instructions. We would also propose to keep in touch with the Directors of Plans for the provision of strategic advice in particular cases and that we should be the normal channel through which contact would be maintained with the Service Departments on questions of the provision of military supplies and equipment for particular operations, including financial provision.

7. These proposals represent a considerable advance on anything which has hitherto existed for the prosecution of the cold war. So far as the Defence interest is concerned, it is true that the new organisation does not affect the existing principle that the overseas Departments and, in particular, the Foreign Office, are responsible for policy in this field. But short of this it goes some way to meet the views which the Chiefs of Staff put forward early in 1957⁺, for a more forceful prosecution of the cold war in which the Defence side would take a full part.

My own view, for what it is worth, is that we have the opportunity, for the first time, to maintain constant touch with what is going on in all fields and to bring the interests of Defence policy to bear on the conduct of clandestine operations at their most effective point, viz. the formulation of specific plans and the conduct of operations.

(Initialled) J.A.D.

+ COS(57)50