

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AD/ORE
FROM : Chief, D/Pub
SUBJECT: Contents of the CIA Daily Summary.

DATE: 21 September 1950

Reference: My memorandum to AD/ORE, dated 7 February 1949, subject "The Dulles Report,"; my memorandum to AD/ORE, dated 5 April 1950, subject "Distribution of the CIA Daily Summary; my memorandum to AD/ORE, dated 20 April 1950, same subject; my memorandum to AD/ORE, 3 August 1950, same subject.

1. The CIA Daily Summary was set up in response to a request from the President for a brief daily digest of the most important cables and telegrams. This original request has always been the guiding concept for the Daily Summary, and any suggestion that the publication be broadened in scope, that it might become a sort of daily estimate rather than a daily digest of what cables came to hand, has been held contrary to the President's request. The limitation imposed by this concept means that on any given day the Daily Summary can contain only those items which have appeared in the cable traffic for the day (or the day before). The sporadic flow of cable traffic makes it highly likely that for a day or two at a time there will be no cables concerning a highly sensitive situation and that for this reason the Daily Summary will carry no item on the matter. At the same time, it is highly possible that cables concerning this situation have arrived in Washington but that CIA has either been excluded from distribution or has been given distribution and has been requested not to use the material in any publication.

2. The guiding concept that the CIA Daily Summary is published in response to a request from the President places a premium on sensitive cables, those which most deserve to be brought to the President's attention. These are the cables which are most jealously guarded by the several agencies. The record of the agencies in making these cables available to CIA is very uneven. The service agencies have always made a rigid distinction between operational and intelligence materials and have freely given CIA what they regard as intelligence materials but have refused to give CIA operational materials. Under this guise, they have withheld from CIA such sensitive materials as General MacArthur's reports from Tokyo, General Clay's reports from Berlin, Admiral Struble's reports from the Seventh Fleet, Admiral Badger's reports from Tsingtao, General Van Fleet's reports from Athens, etc. CIA does not receive reports made to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, many of which must, because of their origin and their subject, be worthy of the President's attention. On the other hand, the Department of State has steadily maintained a good record in making sensitive materials available to CIA, a fact which accounts to a fair degree for the predominance of State materials in the Daily Summary. During the past year, however, as State-Defense relations have deteriorated and as State has become increasingly aware that through the CIA Daily Summary the Department of Defense is receiving sensitive State materials without reciprocating, State has been more and more reluctant concerning its sensitive

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telegrams. Therefore, on a few occasions State has withheld from CIA certain telegrams, either temporarily or indefinitely. Much more frequently, State has distributed these telegrams but has enjoined CIA not to use them in any publication, an injunction which CIA has had to respect for both practical and ethical reasons. These factors have further reduced the supply of materials suitable for inclusion in a Daily Summary designed for the President.

3. Several solutions to remedy the sparseness and inadequacy of the CIA Daily Summary are available. They are:

- a. To change the nature of the publication, relieving it of the necessity to digest those cables which CIA has available and making it more in the nature of a daily estimate;
- b. To make urgent efforts on a high level, as I have repeatedly requested be done, to have the sensitive cables of the Defense Department made available to CIA, a development which would in turn ease the State Department's concern.

4. Recommendation: Under present circumstances, I recommend that the second of these courses be followed and that the DCI be urged to take the matter to a level higher than the IAC.

Comments. A

R. J. Smith
R. J. SMITH.

Solutions 3 a) & b) are related and yet distinct and separate subjects. The recommendation that be followed affects all aspects of intelligence production.

B

This memorandum raises the whole broad question of not only the format and content of CIA's Daily but the much broader problem of what Daily Intelligence Digests now exist, where do they go, and what purposes do they serve? Maybe there is no need ^{SECRET} of a Daily Digest in the field of National ~~SECRET~~ Intelligence! / Show me C

CIA Cold War Records

The CIA under Harry Truman

Editor
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Center for the Study of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
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