

Excerpt from pp. 304-305, Hearings before the Special Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, on the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Bill for 1940", from the statement of J. Edgar Hoover.

Purpose and Work of General Intelligence Division

In September of 1939 we found it necessary to organize a General Intelligence Division in Washington. The establishment of this division was made ~~xxxx~~ necessary by the President's proclamation directing that all complaints of violations of the national defense statutes and proclamations be reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This division now has compiled extensive indices of individuals, groups and organizations engaged in these subversive activities, in espionage activities, or in activities that are possibly detrimental to the internal security of the United States.

The indices have been arranged not only alphabetically but also geographically, so that at any time, should we enter into the conflict abroad, we would be able to go into any of these communities and identify individuals or groups who might be a source of grave danger to the security of this country. Their backgrounds and activities are known to the Bureau. These indices will be extremely important and valuable in grave emergency.

As a result of the present difficulty abroad the mail at the seat of Government has increased tremendously. About 10,000 communications are being received ~~xxxx~~ each month from persons and organizations offering their services or seeking positions, as well as the many complaints of violations of the national-defense statutes. This correspondence in the majority of instances must be answered.

It has been necessary to establish a translation section within the ~~xxxxxx~~ General Intelligence Division whose function it is to review various foreign-language received and secured by the Bureau.

A code section also has been established within the General Intelligence Division for the purpose of decoding any messages which we are able to intercept or obtain.

Since September of this year (1939) it has been necessary to maintain a 24-hour-a-day shift at the seat of Government.

(The above except is all the statement under the heading "Purpose and Work of General Intelligence Division.")

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