

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 867144
By RA NARA Date 9-17-04

FOREIGN NATIONALITIES FIELD MANUAL
STRATEGIC SERVICES
(Provisional)

Strategic Services Field Manual No. 10

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By RA-NARA Date 09-17-04

Office of Strategic Services

Washington, D. C.

21 September 1945

This Foreign Nationalities Field Manual has been written for the information and future guidance of all concerned, as a result of the experience of this branch since its creation.

The contents of this manual should be carefully controlled and should not be allowed to come into unauthorized hands.

AR-380-5, pertaining to handling of secret documents will be complied with in the handling of this manual.

William J. Donovan

Director

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SECTION I - DIRECTIVE

1. In accordance with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Directive and General Order Number 9, the Foreign Nationalities Branch of OSS is charged with:

a. Maintaining, in consultation with the State Department, contact with foreign nationality groups and individuals in the United States for the purpose of obtaining information.

b. Analyzing, indexing, and processing the information in forms appropriate for dissemination to the strategic services planning and operating branches of OSS, the State Department and other agencies of the Government requiring the information.

SECTION II - ORGANIZATION

2. MAIN OFFICE

a. The functions of the main office of the Foreign Nationalities Branch are to direct, coordinate, analyze, and digest information on foreign nationality group activities in the United States from all available sources.

b. The main office is organized as the Field Study Division, the Chancery Division, and the Office of the Chief.

(1) The Field Study Division of the main office is in constant correspondence with the field men and press readers in the field. It advises them of topics of interest by telephone, by letter, and by weekly lists of current international problems, with regard to which they should watch for reactions. This Division is the administrative center of the field services.

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(2) The Chancery Division is the creative center of foreign nationalities intelligence. It is staffed by specialists in the individual foreign nationality fields and in the affairs of the respective homelands. These specialists are experienced writers. As a whole the Division ensures coordination of intelligence from the point of view both of analysis and of presentation. Attached to it are:

(a) The Analysis and Index Section. This section is manned by experienced librarians with international backgrounds. It performs the independent task of registering, analyzing, indexing, and filing incoming material for current and future reference. On it depends the efficient and economical working of every element in the foreign nationalities intelligence service.

(b) The Editorial Section. Here is the processing center of foreign nationalities intelligence. It reviews, checks, and revises the writing of every item of output, and determines dissemination. In the process it consults the main office files and the various specialists, and may ask for additional evidence in order independently to establish the reliability, correct perspective and interest of the individual item of output. It determines the physical shape of output.

(3) The Office of the Chief ensures the final coordination of foreign nationalities intelligence both in its own structure and in relation to other government operations. It maintains corresponding relations both with other intelligence activities of the Government and with the policy-making authorities of the Government.

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3. FIELD SERVICES

a. The Field Services of the Foreign Nationalities Branch are composed of field men and press readers.

b. The field men are located according to the concentrations of foreign nationality communities in New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Madison, and San Francisco. They are familiar with the homeland problems of the groups with which they deal.

c. Press Reading Services are provided by the Overseas News Agency and volunteer readers recruited mainly from universities and colleges all over the country.

SECTION III - PERSONNEL

4. SERVICES FOR RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL

a. Services for recruitment of personnel devolve on the main office.

b. Paid personnel constitutes the main body.

c. Unpaid personnel includes:

(1) Consultants and

(2) Volunteer readers of the foreign nationality press.

5. QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL

The types of personnel required are determined by the following needs of foreign nationality intelligence:

a. Knowledge of the respective languages of the foreign nationality groups.

b. Familiarity with their homeland background and domestic (U. S.) problems.

c. Acquaintance with international affairs.

SECTION IV - OPERATIONS

6. METHODS OF OPERATION

a. The Foreign Nationality Press and Publications must be read and recorded in adequate translations. Account must

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n of the limitations of a press that is largely devoted to local community affairs.

b. Documents of the foreign nationality organizations (annual reports, etc.) are collected and analyzed as evidence of views and policies of the community.

c. Meetings are attended and reported on the same grounds.

d. Interviews with individuals are sought but must be used with circumspection. In the first place there is no obligation on a member of a foreign nationality community to furnish an interview; in the second place he is not committed by what he may say in an interview; and in the third place a complete polling of the foreign nationality communities is beyond practical possibility. Information from this source is accordingly always fragmentary and of uneven value.

e. Correspondence between private individuals here and abroad is scrutinized when available under conditions of

wartime censorship.

f. All members of the service supplement the office intake of special reports and material by general information on foreign nationalities, their homelands, history, background, and current foreign political concerns.

g. Members of the service in particular keep abreast of official and unofficial developments in the relations between the United States and the homeland of the respective foreign nationality communities.

7. LOCATION OF MAJOR GROUPS

The location of major groups determines the distribution of field services (see above point 3, b.).

8. SCOPE OF OPERATIONS

a. The Foreign Nationalities Branch limits its direct collection and dissemination of intelligence in accordance with the following considerations:

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(1) The Foreign Nationalities Branch is concerned only with the political activities of the foreign nationality communities. Business, church, social, and other aspects of their existence in the United States are not of interest except in so far as they bear directly on political matters.

(2) It is further concerned only with political matters that having a bearing on foreign affairs, in particular the affairs of the homelands of the respective foreign nationality communities. In domestic politics members of these communities are as free from official scrutiny as are other citizens and guests of the United States.

(3) Finally, the Foreign Nationalities Branch operates in the open. It does not seek information on subversive activities that may occur in the foreign nationality communities. It is not concerned with the views and actions of foreigners who in an official capacity -- for instance as diplomats -- visit or reside here and have official relations with the Government. It performs, accordingly, a public liaison function, which entails a non-partisan approach. The shifting of alignments within the foreign nationality communities must be observed without partisanship.

b. The current concerns of the State Department and other agencies of the Government, together with their missions abroad, determine the final selection and presentation of material.

9. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Cooperation with the State Department and other agencies of the Government is carried on by telephone and written correspondence, by visits to and from officials, and by making available the basic files of the Foreign Nationalities Branch.

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