

Coordination between  
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State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee  
SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

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Serial No. 34

MRC/gh

7 June 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR

War Member, SAB  
State Member, SAB ←  
Navy Member, SAB

Subject: State-War-Navy Coordinating Subcommittee for Military Information Control

1. On 5 June 1946, the State Member and the Secretary of the Security Advisory Board made a personal visit to the Office of Mr. Frederick Exton (S-558), Chairman of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Subcommittee for Military Information Control. It had been suggested by the State members of the SWNCC Secretariat that the Security Advisory Board and the Subcommittee for Military Information Control might possibly have common interests and be able to work together on certain problems.
2. In the conversation with Mr. Exton, he stated his belief that the Security Advisory Board could act as an implementing agency to inform government agencies and departments of certain policies and procedures which the Subcommittee for Military Information Control might wish more widely circulated. With regard to SWNCC 206/9, Disclosure of Military Information to Foreign Governments, and the implementing paper SWNCC 206/16, Disclosure of Classified Information to Foreign Governments and their Nationals, Mr. Exton felt that certain provisions of these papers should be brought to the attention of non-military federal departments and agencies. However, in view of the high classification of both documents, he realized that the papers as such could not be made available for the wide distribution which the Security Advisory Board would probably have. It was decided that the most feasible procedure in this respect would be for the Secretary of the Security Advisory Board to prepare a memorandum to the Security Officers of non-military federal departments and agencies describing in brief the channels for a non-military agency to follow in releasing classified information to a foreign government. (Mr. Anderson stated that such a request had been brought to his attention by the Treasury Department recently and that he had referred it to Mr. Exton for the proper disposition.) Upon preparation of such a memorandum, it was decided that the Secretary should clear the paper with Mr. Exton and possibly with SWNCC, provided any pertinent parts of SWNCC papers were used in its preparation.

3. Mr. Exton discussed at some length a bill, introduced by Senator Eastland and Senator Wherry, which would restrict the giving of information,

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classified or unclassified, to a foreign government, unless such information were handled through governmental channels. Mr. Exton pointed out that classified information could be withheld from a foreign government without too much difficulty, but that there were no barriers to the giving or selling of unclassified information from industries in the United States to a foreign government. He showed the State Member and the Secretary of the Security Advisory Board a paper which the Subcommittee for Military Information Control was preparing to request that SWNCC make a thorough investigation of the present and potential arrangements regarding the transfer of "know-how" from this country to foreign countries. In this discussion the question arose as to whether the Publication Board, Department of Commerce, was securing complete clearances on the material which they are listing for sale to industry, here and abroad. The State Member pointed out that it was within the charter of the Security Advisory Board to make "administrative surveys" and that the SAB might be able to go into the Department of Commerce and determine the types of clearances which they were getting on all materials. The Secretary noted that the Board could not go into any department or agency unless they were requested to enter by that department or agency or directed by SWNCC. In the latter case it would still be necessary to obtain clearance from the Security Officer.

4. Mr. Exton said he had hoped that the Security Advisory Board would be able to act as the implementing authority needed to make the investigation required in the SWNCC paper on national security which he had previously mentioned. Mr. Anderson pointed out that the Board was concerned with security in government agencies and departments and that unless SWNCC directed the Security Advisory Board to be such an implementing authority, it would be impossible for the Board to undertake such a study.

5. Mr. Exton agreed that there might be instances when his Subcommittee would discover that certain violations of military security were occurring through leaks in a civilian department or agency and that he would be glad to bring those to the attention of the Security Advisory Board. He asked that the Members of the Board be kept informed regarding the status of the paper which he was forwarding to SWNCC and that, if possible, the Board undertake the study requested in that paper. The Secretary agreed to draft a memorandum to Security Officers describing the procedure to be followed regarding requests from foreign governments for classified information.

For the Security Advisory Board:

*M. Ruth Catlett*  
M. RUTH CATLETT  
Capt., WAC  
Secretary