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OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

Personal and Confidential

December 18, 1942

Honorable John J. McCloy  
Assistant Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.



DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652  
Author: NND 740062  
By: EOC NNS, Date 7/1/74

Dear Jack:

Since our brief conversation last Monday about the need for closer integration of our psychological warfare activities with Army and Navy operations, I have had several conversations on this matter with Elmer Davis.

As you probably know, the Committee on War Information Policy, provided for by the President in the Executive Order which created OWI, has now resolved itself into a weekly meeting of Mr. Davis with the Secretaries of State, War and Navy. Here the major policies can be cleared.

For the continuing consultation, which is vitally important to my own part of the job, I suggest the formation of a Board of Psychological Warfare under the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The chairman of this board would be a high ranking officer appointed by the Chiefs of Staff and enjoying their confidence. The other members of the board would be Assistant Secretaries of State, War and Navy (and I certainly mean you) and one or more representatives of OWI. The board should have a full-time secretariat, composed preferably of officers from the psychological warfare branches of the Army and Navy. This secretariat would function constantly for the clearance of the problems which arise from day to day. The board itself would clear all policy and operational plans of OWI overseas activities.

As I told you, our relations with Joint Security Control have been excellent, and we have good reason to be very grateful to General Strong for the way he has handled this. But Joint Security Control has answered only a part of the great need for close integration.

This organization is now really functioning on a global scale and we are in a position to operate more and more effectively through many different means of communication. Furthermore, through our outposts, we are inevitably developing as a source of intelligence, particularly on the state of morale in many important parts of the world.

I hope we can talk further about this, and I also hope something can be done about it. We are anxious to serve.

Sincerely yours,

*Bob*

Robert E. Sherwood  
Director of Overseas Operations



4823  
OWI-3348  
Board Psychological Warfare  
R. Sherwood

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