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Doc TRUMAN, HARRY S.

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Analysis of Column by Former President Harry S. Truman Dated 21 December 1963

1. Truman claims that CIA has been diverted from its original intended role as an intelligence agency to "an operational and at times a policy-making arm of the Government." He recommends that CIA be "restored to its original assignment as the intelligence arm of the President and that its operational duties be terminated or properly used elsewhere."
2. ~~He~~ He states that he organized CIA to provide the President with timely, unbiased, all-source intelligence. This intelligence was to be supplied in its "natural raw state," "unedited and uninterpreted." The appointment of outstanding non-partisan intelligence chiefs was to provide the primary ~~assurance~~ assurance that the concept was executed.
3. CIA, says Truman, has now been diverted from this original ^{task} ~~task~~ and has undertaken operation and at times ~~made~~ made policy. Although CIA was never intended to be used for "peace-time cloak-and-dagger operations," it is now an embarrassing target of enemy propaganda. Because of "complications and embarrassment" in part attributable to CIA operations, CIA's operational duties should be "terminated or properly used elsewhere," thus removing a "shadow" from our historic position as a

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TOP SECRET

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free and open society.

5. Truman is correct in stating that CIA does conduct operations, although he is incorrect in stating that CIA "makes policy." He chooses to ignore the fact that CIA continues its positive intelligence functions on a vastly expanded scale. CIA's operational responsibilities in support of national security policy are undertaken in addition to its intelligence functions.

6. CIA first became engaged in "cloak-and-dagger operations," including both espionage and covert action, under the Truman administration. On 2 April 1946 the National Intelligence Authority (NIA) directed that the former OSS Strategic Services Unit (SSU) be placed under the orders of the ~~Director~~ DCI. The SSU, then in the War Department, had been responsible for both espionage and counterespionage. The DCI was to determine, in conjunction with the War Department, what personnel, facilities, equipment, and records were to be transferred to the Central Intelligence Group (CIG). The personnel and material thus acquired by CIG ~~passed~~ passed to CIA under the ~~act~~ provisions of the National Security Act of 1947. On 12 December 1947, the National Security Council (NSC) approved the Fifth Directive of the NIA, giving the DCI authority to conduct "all organized Federal espionage and counterespionage abroad."

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7. The CIA also acquired responsibility for covert action programs under the Truman administration. This responsibility was given to CIA by the President and the NSC over ~~the~~ the objection of the DCI, who had reservations about its legality and feasibility. CIA's analysis of the intent of Congress in the Act of ~~1947~~ 1947 did not support a grant of authority, even under the provision that CIA should undertake "such other functions and duties relating to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct."

8. The DCI was charged with planning and conducting ~~black~~ black propaganda abroad under NSC 4-A of 17 December 1947. On 22 December 1947 the DCI directed the Assistant Director in the Office of Special Operations (espionage and counterespionage) to establish a "foreign information ~~branch~~ branch," later known as the Special Procedures Group (SPG). The SPG was authorized to use "all measures of information and persuasion short of physical," including black publications and radio, forgeries, and poison pen letters. The CIA was active during [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] earning a commendation for the DCI from President Truman in front of the NSC. SPG was also active in planning other operations, including the balloon program and what later became Radio Free Europe.

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9. On 18 June 1948 NSC 10-2 created the Office of Special Projects ^(OSP) ~~from~~ from the SPG, and added to the list of activities in NSC 4-A. The OSP was authorized to conduct sabotage, antisabotage, demolitions, evacuations, ~~and~~ aid to guerillas, and support for anti-communist groups in addition to the ~~black~~ black propaganda activities. OSP was not, however, to engage in armed conflict by recognized forces, espionage and counterespionage, or cover and deception for military operations.

10. On 1 Sept 1948, the OSP became the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), with responsibility for ~~black~~ psychological warfare using black press and radio; political warfare, including the exploitation of refugees and defectors; economic warfare, including fiscal and monetary operations; and "preventive direct action" such as guerilla support, sabotage, and support for anti-communist groups.

11. Thus, it is clear that under the direct ~~urgency~~ urging and guidance of President Truman and the NSC, CIA ~~was~~ was given responsibility for conducting operations, starting with ~~black~~ black propaganda and then expanding to include ~~black~~ other types of covert action including sabotage, guerilla ~~warfare~~ warfare, and covert political action.

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The propaganda attacks on CIA for operations are serious, but Truman does

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not ~~make~~ ^{make} a case that ~~the~~ CIA's positive intelligence mission has been hampered.

In fact, he does not conclude that operations should not be conducted but merely that they should either be terminated or transferred elsewhere. So long as operations are conducted by the US--and perhaps even if they are not--some part of the government (CIA, DOD, USIA, etc.) will be subject to propaganda attack. In addition, clandestine intelligence collection activities will also be attacked ~~as~~ as they are now.

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