

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Washington 25, D.C.

Office of the Director

8 January 1951

MEMORANDUM TO: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT : Draft of NSC Directive on Covert Operations  
and Clandestine Activities

1. On 14 December 1950, at my request, the National Security Council suspended paragraph 4 of NSC 10/2.

2. I am submitting herewith the draft of a directive for issuance by the National Security Council which clearly defines the responsibilities for covert operations and clandestine activities in peace or in war. This draft was prepared by representatives of this agency in consultation with Rear Admiral Leslie Stevens from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Brigadier General John Magruder from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Mr. Robert Joyce from the Department of State.

3. It is my recommendation that this Directive be sent by the National Security Council to the Departments of State and Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff for comment.

4. A related subject which needs clarification is the distinction between covert operations such as may be planned and executed by this agency, and guerrilla warfare conducted by regular forces. I have directed that a paper on this subject be prepared for submission to the NSC.

/s/ WALTER B. SMITH  
Director

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

COVERT OPERATIONS AND CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

1. Under the authority of Section 102(d)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council hereby directs that:

2. The Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for the planning, preparation and execution of covert operations and clandestine intelligence activities in peace or in war and for insuring that such operations are planned and conducted in a manner consistent with and in support of U.S. foreign and military policies and with overt activities.

3. The following relationships shall prevail in wartime or in peacetime in those areas where U.S. military forces are engaged in combat:

a. The DCI shall coordinate the foregoing activities with the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the appropriate non-military U.S. government departments and agencies, and insure that plans for such activities are accepted by JCS as being consistent with and complementary to approved plans for wartime or emergency military operations.

b. Covert operations and clandestine intelligence activities in a theater of military command shall come within the overall responsibility of the theater commander and the DCI shall designate a senior representative to be on the General Staff of each theater commander concerned with such operations and activities, responsible to the theater commander through the Chief of Staff, to assist in the planning, direction and command of such operations and activities. Policy direction and control of the execution of such operations and activities in the theater shall be through the JCS.

c. The DCI shall coordinate with the Secretary of State in order to insure that plans and activities are consistent with the political strategy and political operations and objectives of the United States.

d. In areas other than theaters of military operations, the senior representative of the DCI shall keep the respective senior diplomatic representatives in the countries concerned generally advised of covert operations and clandestine intelligence activities and shall obtain political guidance from such diplomatic officials with respect thereto.

e. Theater commanders and senior political representatives outside of theaters of military operations shall be advised of such covert operations and clandestine intelligence activities as are based in their respective areas but with objectives that transcend or do not directly affect the responsibilities of the respective theater commanders and the senior political representatives.

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f. For reasons of security and adequate liaison, the DCI shall maintain independent communications with his representatives overseas, including lateral communications between theaters. Arrangements for such communications shall be coordinated with those of the military.

g. The Departments of State and Defense and the JCS shall provide continuous guidance and support of the DCI in planning covert operations and clandestine intelligence activities and insure that such operations and activities receive the necessary and appropriate support.

4. As used herein clandestine intelligence includes espionage and counterespionage; covert operations include guerrilla warfare (as defined in NSC \_\_\_), sabotage, covert demolitions, covert countersabotage, covert removal of personnel including escape and evasion evacuation and exfiltration, covert propaganda, covert political warfare and covert economic warfare. Such operations do not include armed conflict by organized military forces or cover and deception for military purposes.

5. The foregoing rescinds paragraph 4 of NSC 10/2 and all other provisions of NSC 10/2 and NSCID-5 which may be inconsistent with the provisions of this directive.

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