

June 15, 1942

MEMORANDUM

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; News Article  
in Chicago Tribune and Washington  
Times-Herald, December 4, 1941,  
Relative Army and Navy Estimate  
of United States Over-all Production  
Requirements; ESPIONAGE

Narrative

On December 4, 1941, the Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald published certain excerpts over the by line of Chesly Manly, of the Chicago Tribune, from a secret document of the War Department, known as "The Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," containing the plans of the Army Ground Force, Army Air Force, and the Navy.

Investigation disclosed that this secret document had been prepared by the Army and Navy upon a directive of the President dated July 9, 1941, addressed to the Secretaries of War and Navy, which was to be completed September 10, 1941. In compliance with this directive, the plan relative to the Army Ground Force was drawn up by Lieutenant Colonel Albert C. Wedemeyer; the Army Air Force by Colonel Harold L. George, Colonel O. A. Anderson, Colonel Kenneth Walker, Colonel Reuben Moffatt, Major H. S. Hansell, and Major Lawrence Kuter; and the Navy part by Rear Admiral R. K. Turner and Captain Oscar Smith, U. S. N.

On or about October 22, 1941, the completed secret document, consisting of thirty-five copies, was assembled and distributed under the supervision of Colonel William P. Scobey, Secretary of the Joint Board, War Department. Copies numbers sixteen to twenty-five, both inclusive, were delivered by Colonel Scobey to Commander L. R. McDowell, Secretary to Rear Admiral Turner, on or about October 27, 1941, which copies were distributed by Commander McDowell to various Navy officers in the War Plans Division of the Navy Department. Copies numbers twenty-six to thirty-five, both inclusive, were delivered to Colonel W. W. Dick, Adjutant General of the Air Corps on or about October 22, 1941, who turned these copies over to Colonel Harold L. George who distributed them to various officers in the Army Air Corps on or about November 25, 1941. The remaining fifteen copies, numbers one to fifteen, both inclusive, were distributed to various officers in the War Department.

Owing to the number of copies of the secret document in question, and the several hundred Army and Navy officers and civilian employees in both the War and Navy Departments having legitimate access thereto, it has not been possible to determine the source from whom the Chicago Tribune received the secret document.

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On January 12, 1942, Arthur Sears Henning, correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, Washington, D. C., refused to divulge the source from whom the Chicago Tribune received the war plan, but did state that the secret document was obtained by his newspaper on December 2, 1941, and returned to the source on December 3, 1941.

On January 23, 1942, Chesly Manly, assistant correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, was interviewed and stated that he obtained the secret document entitled, "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," on December 2, 1941, and returned it to the source on December 3, 1941. Manly refused to divulge the source from whom he obtained this document. He also refused to answer questions concerning whether he received authority from the President, Secretary of War and Secretary of Navy to publish the document in the Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald.

Confidential information received by the Bureau indicates that the secret document in question was obtained by the Chicago Tribune from an isolationist Senator. *Walsh*

#### Applicable Statutes

Title 50, Chapter 4, Section 31 (d), United States Code Annotated, punishes whoever, having possession of any writing or plan or note relating to the national defense, willfully communicates or transmits the same to any person not entitled to receive it. By the wording of the Statute, there seems to have been a violation of this Section, in that Manly and Henning possessed a writing or plan relating to the national defense and communicated the same to the Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald. There also seems to be a violation in that the Chicago Tribune and Washington Times-Herald in turn communicated the information to the general public which was not entitled to receive it.

Title 50, Chapter 4, Section 31 (b), punishes whoever, for the purpose of obtaining information relating to the national defense with intent or reason to believe that the information is to be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign country, copies or obtains any document, writing, or note connected with the national defense. It appears that Manly, Henning, and the newspapers violated this Section by obtaining and copying the secret plan, and the surrounding facts imply that they had reason to believe that the information was to be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation.

Title 50, Chapter 4, Section 31 (c), punishes the recipients of information obtained in violation of Section 31 (b), knowing or having reason to believe that the information was obtained in violation of that Section. Manly, Henning, and the newspapers are apparently also guilty of violating Section 31 (c).

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The other Sections of the Espionage Statutes are apparently not applicable because of certain necessary elements in them.

Witnesses

Colonel William P. Scobey, Fort Meade,  
Maryland (former Secretary,  
Joint Board, War Department)

To testify that he had supervision of assembling and distribution of thirty-five copies of secret document, "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," and that no persons were entitled to the information contained therein, except certain officials of the War and Navy Departments.

Lieutenant Colonel Albert C. Wedemeyer,  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

To testify that he is the author of the Army Ground Force material shown in the secret document and his wording relative to the Ground Force data was quoted verbatim by Chesly Manly in the Chicago Tribune and Washington Times-Herald on December 4, 1941; that this document, "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," was a secret document of the War Department and the only persons entitled to the information contained therein were certain officials of the War and Navy Departments.

Rear Admiral R. K. Turner, U. S. N.,  
Captain Oscar Smith, U. S. N., Navy  
Department, Washington, D. C.

To testify that they were the authors of the Navy part of the secret document, "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," and that the wording of the secret document in the Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald was verbatim with the document itself; that the document was a secret document and the only persons entitled to the information contained therein were certain officials of the War and Navy Departments.

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Brigadier General Harold L. George,  
 former Colonel  
 Brigadier General Lawrence Kuter,  
 former Major  
 Colonel O. A. Anderson  
 Colonel Kenneth N. Walker  
 Colonel Reuben Moffatt  
 Major H. S. Hansell  
 War Department, Washington, D. C.

To testify that they were the authors of the Air Corps part of the "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941"; that this document was a secret document of the War Department, and that the only persons entitled to the information contained therein were certain officials of the War and Navy Departments.

Captain Albert L. Vreeland  
 Captain Lowell J. Bradford  
 War Department, Washington, D. C.  
 Joseph A. Genau, Special Agent  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 1437 K Street, N. W.  
 Washington, D. C.

To testify that Arthur Sears Henning and Chesly Manly, correspondent and assistant correspondent, respectively, of the Chicago Tribune, admitted that they were in possession of the secret document, "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," on December 2 and 3, 1941, and they made copies of certain excerpts therefrom; that they refused to divulge the source who furnished them with the document.

#### Possible Witnesses

Charles Duffy, editor  
 Frank Waldrop, editor  
 Times-Herald, Washington, D. C.

Confidential information has been received to the effect that Charles Duffy knows the source of Manly's information and that Frank Waldrop wrote the story relative to the secret document "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," in the Times-Herald and may know Manly's source of information.

Joseph Patterson, publisher, New York  
 Daily News, New York, New York

Mr. Patterson informed Lieutenant Colonel J. T. Bissell and Lieutenant Lowell J. Bradford of G-2, War Department, that his entire knowledge relative to the publication

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of the secret document, "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," which appeared in the Washington Times-Herald and the Chicago Tribune on December 4, 1941, was that "A Senator called Mr. Henning, manager of the Washington office of the Chicago Tribune in the Keith-Albee Building, and through this medium gave Mr. Henning this story." Mr. Patterson did not know what Senator it was and stated he was holding nothing back because he just did not know any more. He said that he understood that Mr. Henning had instructions from Colonel McCormick, owner of the Chicago Tribune, to get the hottest stories he could find in an attempt to scoop the new Chicago Sun which was coming out on the morning of December 4, 1941.

#### Admissions

Arthur Sears Henning, correspondent  
Chicago Tribune, Washington, D. C.

In the Chicago Tribune of Friday, December 5, 1941, in an article containing the by line Arthur Sears Henning, carried on page one and continuing on page sixteen, column two, Henning on the latter page admits the following:

"I was aware of the source of Manly's information and knew it to be authentic, notwithstanding the Administration's denial. In view of the officially inspired aspersions upon the integrity of Mr. Manly, I directed a vigorous search of all possible avenues of information on the secret war plan, the revelation of which had angered the President.

"The Tribune succeeded in getting part of the information

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"which was published Nov. 26 and eventually obtained the whole story in a copy of the Joint Board's secret report. Thus was Senator Barkley's 'deliberate falsehood' charge exposed as a wanton slander."

### Exhibits

News articles written by Arthur Sears Henning and Chesly Manly, of the Chicago Tribune, relative to the secret document "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941," commonly known as the "Victory Program" in the War and Navy Departments, appearing in the following issues of the Chicago Tribune:

Monday, August 18, 1941, page one, column eight - Two Star Final  
Thursday, October 2, 1941, page one, column one - Three Star Final  
Thursday, November 27, 1941, page one, column seven - Two Star Final  
Thursday, December 4, 1941, page one, columns seven and eight, which covers the publication of the secret document "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941" - Two Star Final  
Friday, December 5, 1941, page one, columns six, seven, and eight - Three Star Final  
Saturday, December 6, 1941, page one, column one, and editorial on page twelve, column one, entitled, "Manly vs. Barkley" - Two Star Final  
Wednesday, December 10, 1941, page one, column two - Two Star Final.

All of the above publications are in the possession of the Bureau.

The following exhibits are in possession of Mr. E. A. Tamm, Assistant to the Director:

Copy of Washington Times-Herald, dated December 4, 1941, covering the publication of the secret document "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941  
Copy number 22 of the secret document "Army and Navy Estimate of the United States Over-all Production Requirements, September 11, 1941.



National Security Archive,  
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,  
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,  
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, [nsarchiv@gwu.edu](mailto:nsarchiv@gwu.edu)