

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

SENATOR KILGORE

(Rm. 105)

For use at meeting Monday.

H.S.T.

WAR DEPARTMENT
War Department General Staff
Military Intelligence Division G-2
Washington

C O P Y

12 June 1943

Mr. Milo Perkins
Board of Economic Warfare
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Perkins:

I should like to invite your attention to the developments of the past year in the use of reports prepared by the Board of Economic Warfare in connection with the activities both of the Joint Intelligence Committee and the Military Information Division of the General Staff. The economic material, furnished by the Board of Economic Warfare, has been most useful in connection with estimates of Axis capabilities, both in Europe and the Far East. The services performed by the Board of Economic Warfare, particularly in regard to the oil situation, have been outstanding and far more accurate than information received from any other source. As Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have come to lean heavily upon your BEW representatives on the Committee and on its Subcommittees, in determining accurate and analytical questions which are of vital importance to sound decisions bearing upon tactical and strategical plans. The reports and analyses submitted to the Joint Intelligence Committee, through your representatives, have been of outstanding value and a material contribution to the overall picture which is essential to sound intelligence and the basis for sound planning. In addition, your organization has been particularly helpful in various problems arising in the estimation of the Axis positions in regard to strategic materials, foodstuffs, industrial capacity, and potentialities of the German and Japanese war machines.

In the government service we are too often prone to accept services as a matter of course and without any particular recognition. In view of the heavy burden which my organizations have undoubtedly placed upon yours, I desire to take this opportunity to express to you and, through you, to the personnel of your organization my very keen appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the close cooperation and the outstanding services performed by the personnel of the Board of Economic Warfare.

Very sincerely,

/s/

GEO V. STRONG
Major General, A. C. of S., G-2

In reply refer to:
MID 904 (6-14-43)

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
Military Intelligence Division G-2
Washington

14 June 1943.

Mr. Mile Perkins
Board of Economic Warfare
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Perkins:

In my letter of 12 June I had the pleasure of expressing to you the appreciation of this Division for the excellent and important contribution made by the Board of Economic Warfare to military intelligence. Permit me now to ask your consideration of another aspect of this matter. I refer to its security implications. As you are aware there is a two-way relationship between the Board of Economic Warfare and the Military Intelligence Division, inasmuch as we exchange information. Much of the data which we give you is confidential or secret and its exposure in any way might place in the hands of the enemy weapons which would be most damaging to the cause of the United Nations. May I therefore ask you to exercise at all times careful precaution that classified material received from Military Intelligence Division is properly safeguarded and used only for the prosecution of the war.

My concern in this connection is heightened by my knowledge that the Board of Economic Warfare is playing an integrated part in the conduct of the war and is actually conducting economic operations directed against the enemy and coordinated with our general strategy. It is thus quite possible that, should enemy agents by any means obtain access either to the broad or to the detailed strategic programs executed by the Board of Economic Warfare, they might well be able to diagnose our purely military plans.

While it is not my own immediate province, permit me also to suggest to you that your tactics and techniques of conducting economic warfare might well provide the enemy, if they were known to him, with means of combating your operations. I make this suggestion from the realization that your effort is integrated with the military effort in the global strategy which we are pursuing. Any defeat which you might suffer through enemy knowledge of the scope, direction and method of your operations will be reflected eventually in the military field.

Very sincerely,

/s/ Geo. V. Strong

Geo. V. Strong,
Major General,
A. C. of S., G-2