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(Basic ltr, Hq Twelfth Army Gp, file 385.4 (JA) sub: Publicity for the Execution of Spies and Saboteurs, dtd 5 Jan 45)

AG 000.5-3 GBI-AGM 1st Ind.
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, APO 757, MAIN
11 January 1945

TO: Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, APO 655, U.S. Army

1. Authority is given to publicize the executions of spies and saboteurs when the circumstances warrant, irrespective of whether they are members of the German Armed Forces, who have been tried by a Military Commission, or civilians acting as espionage or sabotage agents of the Germans who have been tried by a Military Commission or the courts of the indigenous authority.

2. Publicity concerning either of the above categories must be approved by Counter-Intelligence Staffs, and the restrictions stated in Directive, this headquarters, AG 385.4-1 GBI-AGM, subject: "Publicity for the Execution of Spies and Saboteurs", dated 6 July 1944, will continue to apply to civilians acting as German agents who are tried and executed by an indigenous authority. (Copy of Directive attached.)

3. In addition, your attention is directed to Press Censorship Guidance Number 22, this headquarters, entitled, "Responsibility and Procedure for Obtaining Clearance", dated 1 July 1944. Paragraph 4 (c) of this Guidance states that press material dealing with sabotage and spies (Sub-paragraph XVII) must be submitted to Supreme Headquarters, AEF, for clearance, and refers to Paragraph XIX of the "Censor's Bible" for further details.

4. Circular 14, Headquarters, Twelfth Army Group, dated 2 October 1944, in paragraph 215, states "after trial and execution, if any, of an enemy agent, an official statement will be issued by the P & PW section of this headquarters. This official statement will be the sole official publicity release in such case".

5. It is suggested that Circular 14 be amended to conform to the provisions of Press Censorship Guidance Number 22.

6. Therefore, while publicity may emanate from your headquarters as authorized in paragraph 1, above, it must in all cases receive the prior clearance of this headquarters.

By direction of the Supreme Commander:

T. J. DAVIS
Brigadier General, USA
Adjutant General

2 Incl: As stated

Info copies: Hq, 21 A Gp :: CG, Sixth A Gp
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