Executive Documents

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

For transfer of certain procurement and related functions and property, insofar as they pertain to Air Force, from Secretary of the Army and Department of the Army to Secretary of the Air Force and Department of the Air Force, see Secretary of Defense Transfer Order Nos. 6 (§ 1(a)(41)), eff. Jan. 15, 1948; 39 (§ 22z), May 18, 1949.

§ 527. Purchases of implements of war, etc., from American Republics

The Secretaries of the Army and of the Navy are authorized to purchase arms, ammunition, and implements of war produced within the jurisdiction of any American republic if such arms, ammunition, or implements of war cannot be produced in the United States.


Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Department of War designated Department of the Army and title of Secretary of War changed to Secretary of the Army and title of Secretary of War changed to Secretary of the Army by section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title II, 61 Stat. 501. Section 205(a) of act July 26, 1947, was repealed by section 53 of act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 343, title II, § 205(a), 61 Stat. 501. Section 1 of act Aug. 10, 1956, enacted "Title 10, Armed Forces" which in sections 3010 to 3013 continued Department of the Army under administrative supervision of Secretary of the Army.

Executive Documents

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

For transfer of certain procurement and related functions and property, insofar as they pertain to Air Force, from Secretary of the Army and Department of the Army to Secretary of the Air Force and Department of the Air Force, see Secretary of Defense Transfer Order Nos. 6 (§ 1(a)(41)), eff. Jan. 15, 1948; 39 (§ 22z), May 18, 1949.

CHAPTER 11—FOREIGN AGENTS AND PROPAGANDA

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERALLY

Sec. 601. Repealed.

SUBCHAPTER II—REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN PROPAGANDISTS

611. Definitions.
612. Registration statement.
613. Exemptions.
614. Filing and labeling of political propaganda.
615. Books and records.
616. Public examination of official records; transcription of records and information.
617. Liability of officers.
618. Enforcement and penalties.
619. Territorial applicability of subchapter.
620. Rules and regulations.
621. Reports to Congress.

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERALLY


Section, acts June 15, 1917, ch. 30, title VIII, § 40 Stat. 226; Mar. 28, 1940, ch. 72, § 6, 54 Stat. 80, related to acting as a foreign agent without notice to Secretary of State. See section 951 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

SUBCHAPTER II—REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN PROPAGANDISTS

Executive Documents

EX. ORD. NO. 9176, TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION FUNCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ex. Ord. No. 9176, May 29, 1942, 7 F.R. 4127, provided: By virtue of the authority vested in me by Title I of the First War Powers Act, 1941, approved December 18, 1941 (Public Law No. 354, 77th Congress [section 601 et seq. of the former Appendix to Title 50, War and National Defense]), and as President of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. All functions, powers and duties of the Secretary of State under the act of June 8, 1938 (52 Stat. 631), as amended by the act of August 7, 1939 (53 Stat. 1244), requiring the registration of agents of foreign principals, are hereby transferred to and vested in the Attorney General.

2. All property, books and records herebefore maintained by the Secretary of State with respect to his administration of said act of June 8, 1938, as amended, are hereby transferred to and vested in the Attorney General.

3. The Attorney General shall furnish to the Secretary of State for such comment, if any, as the Secretary of State may desire to make from the point of view of the foreign relations of the United States, one copy of each registration statement that is hereafter filed with the Attorney General in accordance with the provisions of this Executive order.

4. All rules, regulations and forms which have been issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of said act of June 8, 1938, as amended, and which are in effect shall continue in effect until modified, superseded, revoked or repealed by the Attorney General.

5. This order shall become effective as of June 1, 1942.

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT.

§ 611. Definitions

As used in and for the purposes of this subchapter—

(a) The term "person" includes an individual, partnership, association, corporation, organization, or any other combination of individuals;

(b) The term "foreign principal" includes—

(1) a government of a foreign country and a foreign political party;

(2) a person outside of the United States, unless it is established that such person is an individual and a citizen of and domiciled within the United States, or that such person is not an individual and is organized under or created by the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and has its principal place of business within the United States; and

(3) a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the term "agent of a foreign principal" means—

(1) any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the

1 So in original. Probably should be "Except".
§ 611

order, request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign principal or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign principal, and who directly or through any other person—

(i) engages within the United States in political activities for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(ii) acts within the United States as a public relations counsel, publicity agent, information-service employee or political consultant for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(iii) within the United States solicits, collects, disburses, or dispenses contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for or in the interest of such foreign principal; or

(iv) within the United States represents the interests of such foreign principal before any agency or official of the Government of the United States; and

(2) any person who agrees, consents, assumes or purports to act as, or who is or holds himself out to be, whether or not pursuant to contractual relationship, an agent of a foreign principal as defined in clause (1) of this subsection.

d. The term “agent of a foreign principal” does not include any news or press service or association organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, or any newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication for which there is on file with the United States Postal Service information in compliance with section 3611 of title 39, published in the United States, solely by virtue of any bona fide news or journalistic activities, including the solicitation or acceptance of advertisements, subscriptions, or other compensation therefor, so long as it is at least 80 per centum beneficially owned by, and its officers and directors, if any, are citizens of the United States, and such news or press service or association, newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication, is not owned, directed, supervised, controlled, subsidized, or financed, and none of its policies are determined by any foreign principal defined in subsection (b) of this section, or by any agent of a foreign principal required to register under this subchapter;

e. The term “government of a foreign country” includes any person or group of persons exercising sovereign de facto or de jure political jurisdiction over any country, other than the United States, or over any part of such country, and includes any subdivision of any such group and any group or agency to which such sovereign de facto or de jure authority or functions are directly or indirectly delegated. Such term shall include any faction or body of insurgents within a country assuming to exercise governmental authority whether such faction or body of insurgents has or has not been recognized by the United States;

(f) The term “foreign political party” includes any organization or any other combination of individuals in a country other than the United States, or any unit or branch thereof, having for an aim or purpose, or which is engaged in any activity devoted in whole or in part to, the establishment, administration, control, or acquisition of administration or control of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof, or the furtherance or influencing of the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof;

(g) The term “public-relations counsel” includes any person who engages directly or indirectly in informing, advising, or in any way representing a principal in any public relations matter pertaining to political or public interests, policies, or relations of such principal;

(h) The term “publicity agent” includes any person who engages directly or indirectly in the publication or dissemination of oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including publication by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or otherwise;

(i) The term “information-service employee” includes any person who is engaged in furnishing, disseminating, or publishing accounts, descriptions, information, or data with respect to the political, industrial, employment, economic, social, cultural, or other benefits, advantages, facts, or conditions of any country other than the United States or of any government of a foreign country or of a foreign political party or of a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of individuals organized under the laws of, or having its principal place of business in, a foreign country;


(k) The term “registration statement” means the registration statement required to be filed with the Attorney General under section 612(a) of this title, and any supplements thereto required to be filed under section 612(b) of this title, and includes all documents and papers required to be filed therewith or amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, whether attached thereto or incorporated therein by reference;

(l) The term “American republic” includes any of the states which were signatory to the Final Act of the Second Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics at Habana, Cuba, July 30, 1940;

(m) The term “United States”, when used in a geographical sense, includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Territories, the Canal Zone, the insular possessions, and all other places now or hereafter subject to the civil or military jurisdiction of the United States;

(n) The term “prints” means newspapers and periodicals, books, pamphlets, sheet music, visiting cards, address cards, printing proofs, engravings, photographs, pictures, drawings, plans, maps, patterns to be cut out, catalogs, prospectuses, advertisements, and printed, engraved, lithographed, or autographed notices of various kinds, and, in general, all impressions or reproductions obtained on paper or other material assimilable to paper, on parchment or on

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²So in original. Probably should be section “3685”. 
that the person intends to, in any way influence' for
‘‘the dissemination of political propaganda and any
other activity which the person engaging therein be-
lieves will, or which he intends to, prevail upon, in-
docrinate, convert, induce, persuade, or in any other way
influence’’.

Subsec. (p). Pub. L. 104–65, §9(b)(c), substituted a per-
iod for semicolon at end.

(q) which read as follows: ‘‘For the purpose of section
613(d) of this title, activities in furtherance of the bona
fide commercial, industrial or financial interests of a
domestic person engaged in substantial commercial, in-
dustrial or financial operations in the United States
shall not be deemed to serve predominantly a foreign
interest because such activities also benefit the inter-
ests of a foreign person engaged in bona fide trade or
commerce which is owned or controlled by, or which
owns or controls, such domestic person: Provided, That
(i) such foreign person is not, and such activities are
not directly or indirectly supervised, directed, con-
trolled, financed or subsidized in whole or in substan-
tial part by, a government of a foreign country or a for-
"mally political party, (ii) the identity of such foreign
person is disclosed to the agency or official of the
United States with whom such activities are con-
ducted, and (iii) whenever such foreign person owns
or controls such domestic person, such activities are sub-
stantially in furtherance of the bona fide commercial,
industrial or financial interests of such domestic per-
son.”

the United States Postal Service information in com-
ppliance with section 3611 of title 39’’ for ‘‘file with the
Postmaster General a sworn statement in compliance
with section 2 of the Act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat.
553), as amended’’.

former pars. (3) and (4) as (2) and (3), substituted in
such par. (3) ‘‘combination of persons’’ for ‘‘combi-
nation of individuals’’ and struck out from definition
of ‘‘foreign principal’’ former pars. (2), (5), and (6) which
included ‘‘(2) an individual affiliated or associated
with, or supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or
subsidized, in whole or in part, by any foreign principal
defined in clause (1) of this subsection’’; ‘‘(5) a domestic
partnership, association, corporation, organization, or
other combination of individuals, subsidized directly or
indirectly, in whole or in part, by any foreign principal
defined in clause (1), (3), or (4) of this subsection’’; and
‘‘(6) a domestic partnership, association, corporation, or
other combination of individuals, supervised, di-
rected, controlled, or financed, in whole or in sub-
stanial part, by any foreign government or foreign poli-
tical party’’.

generally to redefine ‘‘agent of a foreign principal’’ by
specifying four categories of activities creating the
agency relationship where persons act as an em-
ployee, representative, or servant or at the order of, or
under the control of, a foreign principal, by requiring a
showing not only of foreign connections but also of cer-
tain activities performed by the agent for foreign inter-
ests, by making change as it relates to problem of indi-
rect control exerted by foreign principals over their
agents, by including political activities and actions as
political consultant, by excluding attorneys from the
relationship, by incorporating provisions of former par.
(3) in par. (2) where a person assumes or purports to act
as an agent of a foreign principal, and by eliminating
the separate category for military or governmental of-
icials contained in former par. (4).

(1), (2), or (4) of’’ before ‘‘before this section’’.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 89–486, §1(4), inserted ‘‘public re-
lations’’ before ‘‘matter pertaining to’’ and ‘‘of such
principal’’ after ‘‘or relations’’.

(a) to (q).

1936—Subsec. (c)(5). Act Aug. 1, 1956, repealed par. (5) which included within definition of "agent of a foreign principal" any person trained in foreign espionage systems with certain exceptions. See sections 851 and 852 of Title 50, War and National Defense.


1942—Act Apr. 29, 1942, amended section generally to redefine terms used in this subchapter.

1939—Act Aug. 7, 1939, amended section generally to redefine terms used in this subchapter.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

Effective Date of 1995 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 104–65 effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided, see section 24 of Pub. L. 104–65, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 2, The Congress.

Effective Date of 1970 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 91–375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

Effective Date of 1966 Amendment

Pub. L. 89–486, § 9, July 4, 1966, 80 Stat. 249, provided that: "This Act [enacting sections 219 and 613 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and amending this section and sections 612 to 616 and 618 of this title] shall take effect ninety days after the date of its enactment [July 4, 1966]."

Effective Date of 1942 Amendment

Act Apr. 29, 1942, ch. 263, § 3, 56 Stat. 258, provided that: "This Act [enacting this subchapter] shall take effect on the sixtieth day after the date of its approval, except that prior to such sixtieth day the Attorney General may make, prescribe, amend, and rescind such rules, regulations, and forms as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act [amending this subchapter]."

Effective Date

Act June 8, 1938, ch. 327, § 7, 52 Stat. 633, provided that: "This Act [enacting this subchapter] shall take effect on the ninetieth day after the date of its enactment [June 8, 1938]."

Short Title

Act June 8, 1938, ch. 327, § 14, as added by act Apr. 29, 1942, ch. 263, § 1, 56 Stat. 258, provided that: "This Act [enacting Registration Act of 1938, as amended]."

Separability; Effect on Existing Law

Act June 8, 1938, ch. 327, §§ 12, 13, as added by act Apr. 29, 1942, ch. 263, § 1, 56 Stat. 258, provided that:

"Sec. 12. If any provision of this Act [enacting this subchapter], or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act, and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

"Sec. 13. This Act [enacting this subchapter] is an addition to and not in substitution for any other existing statute."

Transfer of Functions

Act Apr. 29, 1942, ch. 263, § 2, 56 Stat. 258, provided that: "Upon the effective date of this Act [see Effective Date of 1942 Amendment note above], all powers, duties, and functions of the Secretary of State under the Act of June 8, 1938 (52 Stat. 631), as amended [this subchapter], shall be transferred to and become vested in the Attorney General, together with all property, books, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations used by or available to the Secretary of State for carrying out the functions devolving on him under the above-cited Act. All rules, regulations, and forms which have hereafter been issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of said Act, and which are in effect, shall continue in effect until modified, superseded, revoked, or repealed."

Policy and Purpose of Subchapter

Act June 8, 1938, ch. 327, as added by act Apr. 29, 1942, ch. 263, § 1, 56 Stat. 248, provided that: "It is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of this Act [enacting this subchapter] to protect the national defense, internal security, and foreign relations of the United States by requiring public disclosure by persons engaged in propaganda activities on behalf of foreign governments, foreign political parties, and other foreign principals so that the Government and the people of the United States may be informed of the identity of such persons and may appraise their statements and actions in the light of their associations and activities."

§ 612. Registration statement

(a) Filing contents

No person shall act as an agent of a foreign principal unless he has filed with the Attorney General a true and complete registration statement and supplements thereto as required by subsections (a) and (b) of this section or unless he is exempt from registration under the provisions of this subchapter. Except as hereinafter provided, every person who becomes an agent of a foreign principal shall, within ten days thereafter, file with the Attorney General, in duplicate, a registration statement, under oath on a form prescribed by the Attorney General. The obligation of an agent of a foreign principal to file a registration statement shall, after the tenth day of his becoming such agent, continue from day to day, and termination of such status shall not relieve such agent from his obligation to file a registration statement for the period during which he was an agent of a foreign principal. The registration statement shall include the following, which shall be regarded as material for the purposes of this subchapter:

(1) Registrant’s name, principal business address, and all other business addresses in the United States or elsewhere, and all residence addresses, if any;

(2) Status of the registrant; if an individual, nationality; if a partnership, name, residence addresses, and nationality of each partner and a true and complete copy of its articles of partnership; if an association, corporation, organization, or any other combination of individuals, the name, residence addresses, and nationality of each director and officer and of each person performing the functions of a director or officer and a true and complete copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, association, constitution, and bylaws, and amendments thereto; a copy of every other instrument or document and a statement of the terms and conditions of every oral agreement relating to its organization, powers, and purposes; and a statement of its ownership and control;

(3) A comprehensive statement of the nature of registrant’s business; a complete list of registrant’s employees and a statement of the nature of the work of each; the name and address