



# Countdown to Korean Surprise: Australia's Experience of Intelligence Assessment, 1949-50

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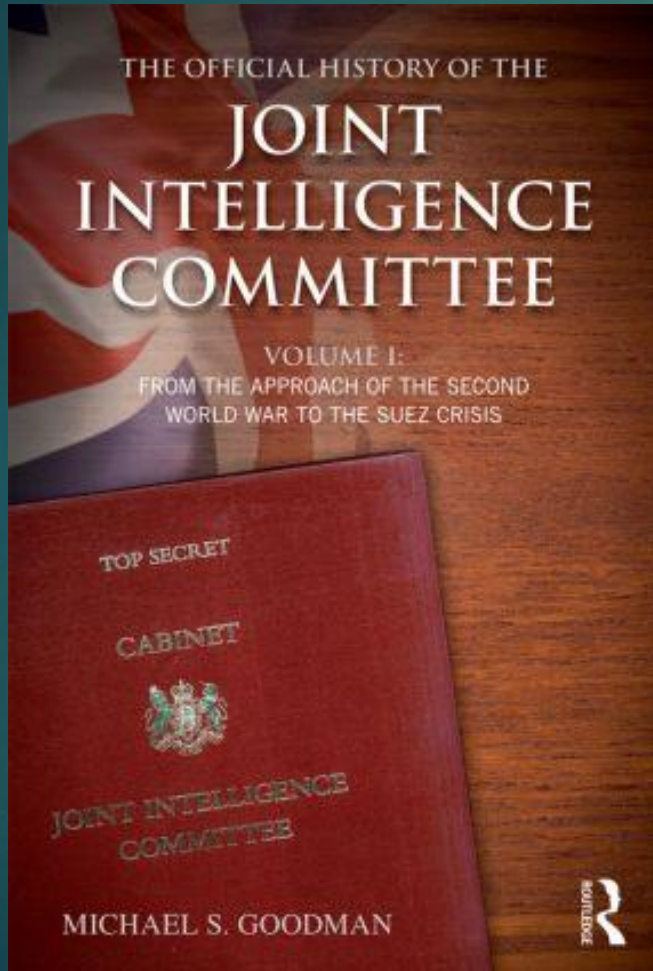


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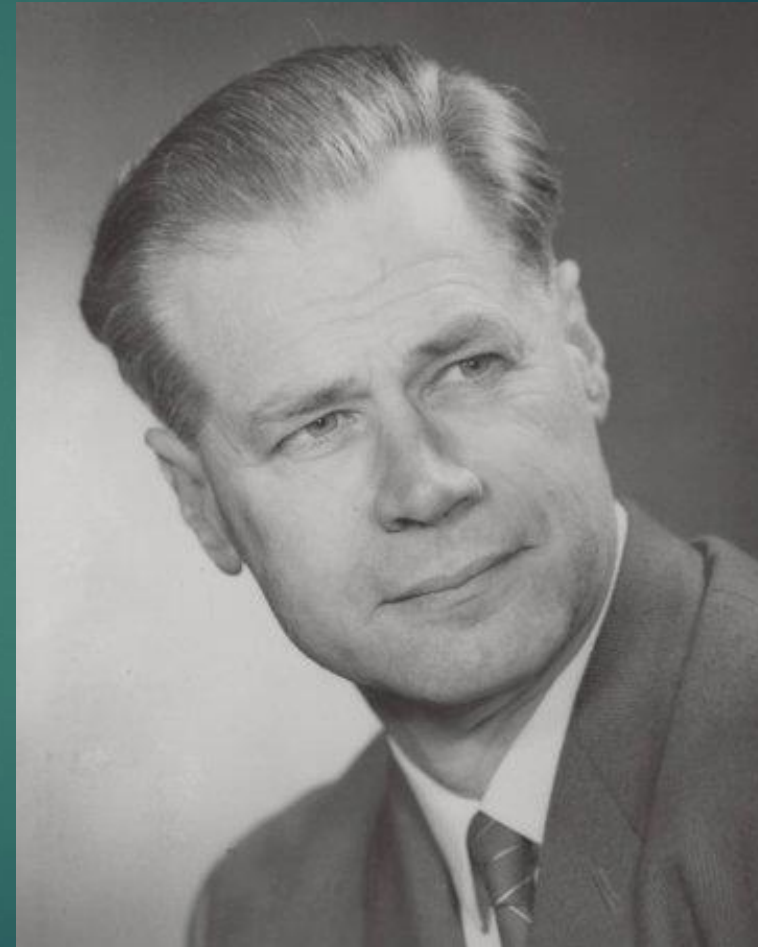
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NATIONAL SECURITY  
COLLEGE

# Intelligence Assessment: the JIC



# External Affairs and Intelligence



# The JIC's Work



# 1948 Political Appreciation

*CANBERRA, 30 September 1948*

*TOP SECRET*


*POLITICAL APPRECIATION*

*This appreciation deals with the position of Australia, as a South-East Asian country, in the event of a conflict between one or more of the Western powers and one or more of the Eastern European countries.*

# China and the Korean War



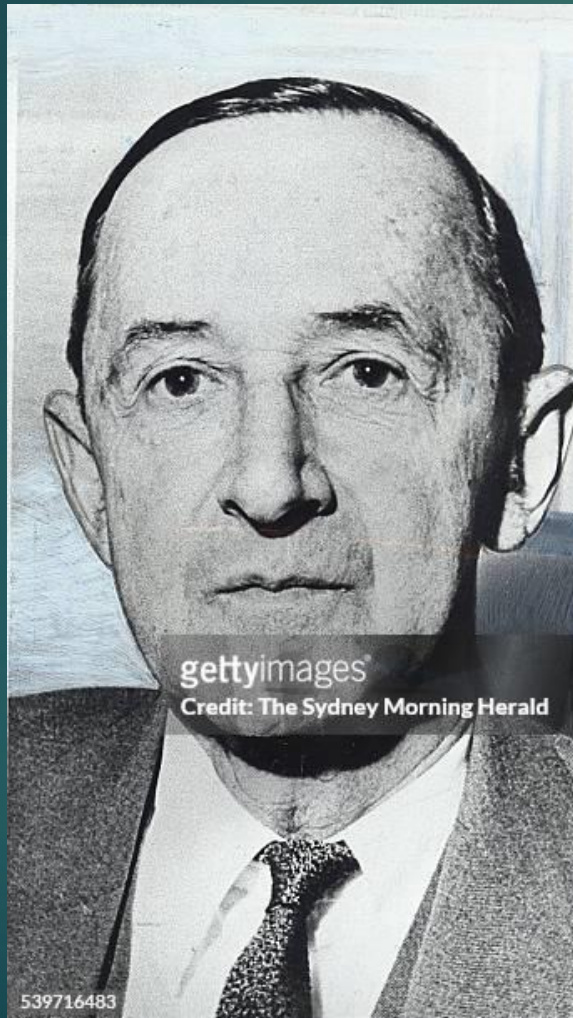
**(b) The Defence Committee, in the light of the deteriorating international situation, recommended on 13th April, 1949 (Defence Committee Minute No. 68/1949) that authority be given for the Joint Intelligence Bureau and the Defence Signals Branch "to be fully staffed and completed with the least possible delay."**



*‘It will be appreciated that information on the points mentioned in paragraph 2 of your memorandum is continually changing. The questions are receiving attention in the light of what appears to be considerable recent changes which necessitates revision of material examined initially following receipt of your memorandum’*



# EA and Korean War Intelligence



# EA's Regional Connection



# Concluding Thoughts



**Weakness of EA's contribution to assessment didn't end with Korea**

**Continuing source of bureaucratic weakness for Australian policy well into the 1960s**