

WAR PSYCHOLOGY BATTLE CARRIED TO WHITE HOUSE

Two Propaganda Heads Clash Over Control.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18 (AP).—A dispute between Col. William J. Donovan, head of the office of strategic services, and Elmer Davis, chief of the office of war information, as to which should direct psychological warfare abroad has gone to the White House, reliable but unquotable sources said tonight. Indications are that OWI will continue its present operations, including those in North Africa.

Davis, asked at a press conference last week whether there were differences between OWI and OSS, said he did not believe it would be "in the public interest for me to say anything about that at this time," but that if the occasion should arise he "could say quite a lot about it."

Tell of Donovan Directive.

Other sources, however, reported that Donovan several weeks ago issued a directive to OWI and other agencies asserting that OSS should be the central agency for planning and directing propaganda and psychological warfare in present and future zones of American military operations abroad.

The OSS operates under the combined chiefs of staff. President Roosevelt last June gave it the function of "collecting secret and strategic information in foreign countries" and performing "miscellaneous strategic services abroad, other than the dissemination of information by radio, leaflets, etc."

The OWI replied to the Donovan directive that in the light of its own executive order from the President it could not permit itself to become merely an arm of OSS.

Resignations Are Threatened.

OWI's executive order instructs the agency to promote "an informed and intelligent understanding, at home and abroad," of this government's war policies, activities and aims.

Robert Sherwood, playwright and OWI's director of overseas operations, indicated his intention of resigning if subjected to Donovan's supervision, it was reported. Two of Sherwood's top assistants, Joseph Barnes, associate director, and James Warburg, a deputy, gave notice that they also would leave if OSS control became a fact. Sherwood and his aids are still on the job.