

UNITED NATIONS GENESIS

United Nations Information Office 1942-1945

As the German war machine ravaged Europe in 1940, representatives of exiled governments communicated among themselves to determine how they might coordinate a more effective resistance and repel occupying forces. Bringing war information to the international public's view was the purpose and vehicle to influence other governments to assist in ridding their countries of domination by foreign powers. By joining forces, that goal could be met more effectively and the origins of the United Nations Information Office lie in the early years of World War II when the allied forces began to form a structured resistance. Information was distributed to newspapers, radio stations, the motion picture industry, as well as educational and religious organizations.

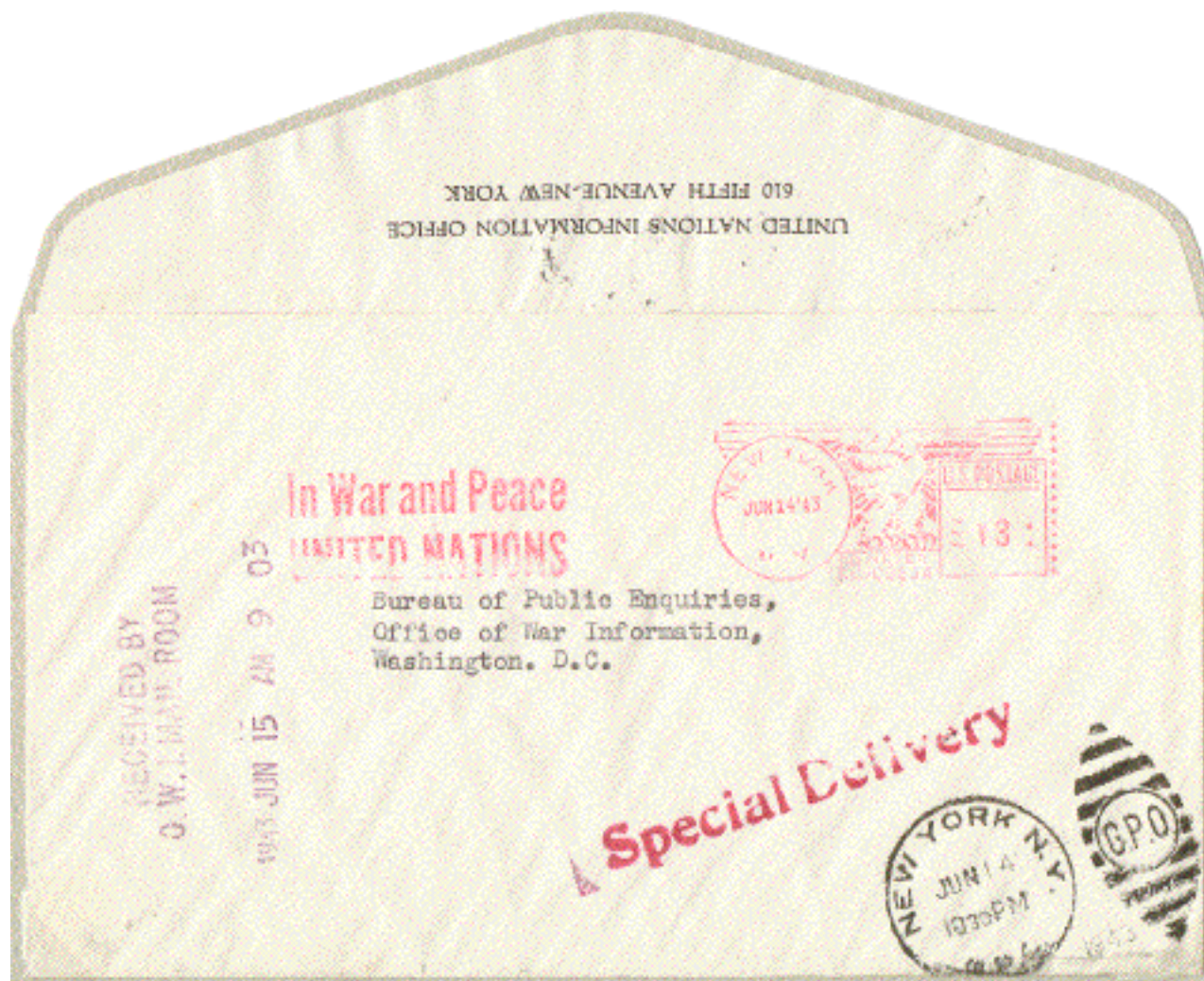
September, 1940: The Inter-Allied Information Center (IAIC) grew out of occasional war information exchange meetings between a group of British, Czech and French government information officers. Featuring:

The only recorded surviving cover to or from the Inter-Allied Information Center

November, 1942: The IAIC changed its name to the United Nations Information Office (UNIO), formed a Board of member representatives and expanded its activities to include Press, Radio, Films, Exhibitions, etc. Featuring:

Censored U.S. Office of War Information (Executive Office) cover to Mexico, earliest recorded U.S. OWI foreign usage
In War and Peace meter on cover, earliest recorded use; meter on tape, latest recorded use of meter 109534

Covers featured in this exhibit originated from informational offices of governments participating in the formation of the UNIO. Such publicity office mail was usually franked by leased postage meter machines and printed corner cards verify meter device users. Although sixteen nations were members of the UNIO, mail is recorded from only eight and all eight are represented in this exhibit. The exhibit contains original research and is the most comprehensive showing of this period of United Nations development.



Domestic first class rate (3¢) with special delivery service (10¢)
Only recorded special delivery example with meter 109534