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3 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Bross

SUBJECT: Views of USIB Committee Chairmen on DIA
Responsiveness and Effectiveness

In connection with [redacted] visit, I have talked to most of the USIB committee chairmen. Their comments are covered in the attachment.

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The consensus seems to be that the DIA venture has worked out all right from the point of view of these committees. In most cases the competent people have been brought up from the Services to DIA. Through all the comments runs the theme that DIA seems to have survived its growing pains and that it is a pretty effective organization.

With one or two exceptions, there were no complaints about responsiveness. More than one person commented on the change for the better in this connection in recent months.

The main dissents from the above consensus come from GMAIC and JAEIC and take somewhat different lines. In the case of GMAIC, [redacted] felt that DIA was pretty bad, while the Services retained competence. He didn't think this was a bad idea. Unfortunately, I was unable to cross check this with Duckett who was out of town. In the case of JAEIC, [redacted] who is the alternate chairman and seems quite knowledgeable, felt that DIA at present has no real analytical competence and that it is not organized as well as it should be in this field. He feels, however, that these are bad things and is taking steps to help DIA correct them. He also believes that DIA's efforts to improve itself are having some results.

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[redacted] for the IDC felt that DIA was not helping much but he thought this was more a case of personal competence than anything else.

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[redacted]

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Attachment

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Views of USIB Committee Chairmen on DIA Responsiveness and Effectiveness

25X1 COMOR (Reber, [redacted])

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In the early days of DIA, their representative was very inflexible, obviously being an instructed delegate. This made the conduct of COMOR business difficult. Some months ago the word seems to have been passed through DIA -- it is believed by Carroll himself -- that this should be corrected. Since then the DIA representatives have been cooperative and ready to negotiate. The competence is pretty good, both at DIA and Service levels. The COMOR management could not support any real criticism.

Documentation (Borel)

DIA has taken up most of the assets from the Services and is active and responsive in the CODIB field. The representation from the Services has fallen off in competence, largely because of transfers, although the Services still take their role seriously. There has been some disagreement between DIA and others in the community in that DIA has wanted to emphasize the machine aspects, i. e., computers, while the rest of CODIB wants to carry on their work on a broader base. This is being worked on and hopefully will be settled. On the whole, DIA should get good marks, after a slow start.

25X1 CCPC [redacted]

25X1 When Reynolds was on the Joint Staff there were jurisdictional problems with DIA and considerable rigidity. Things now are much better and DIA rates pretty well. [redacted] thinks Carroll is particularly good and always well briefed.

25X1 JAEIC [redacted]

Since the establishment of DIA much of the Service competence in the AE field has been lost. DIA absorbed a few people but didn't get the good ones, who went to industry and other assignments. DIA has begun steps to rebuild competence, and has hired some good civilians and is trying to get some good military personnel. However, since the dismantling of the Air Force capability, there has been no real analytical competence in the military

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25X1 set-up. S&T is eager for DIA to achieve competence, and has actually trained some of their people. At present there is no real cross check on the S&T efforts and they think there should be. Organizationally the AE people in DIA are split into at least three different areas, and the JAEIC representative is divorced from direct analytical support. Chamberlain and [] are discussing this with DIA and they believe some progress will be made. (I offered the help of this staff as and if desirable, but we agreed that this would be pretty premature now.) The question of military tours hurts competence.

GMAIC (Zellmer)

25X1 [] is not high on DIA, almost alone among the committees. (He thought I should cross check this with Duckett but he was out of town this week.) [] feels there is no technical competence in DIA, while the Services do retain competence. DIA takes a management rather than a technical role, and is dependent on the Services. From the CIA point of view, there is difficulty in getting reports, pictures, etc., from DIA with any degree of promptness; the mechanics seem to be slow and cumbersome. 25X1 [] believes their intentions are better than their abilities. He thinks that in this particular field it is just as well to have the competence in the Services (a sort of divide and conquer view).

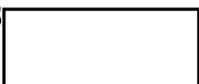
25X1 IDC []

The Air Force and Army members are stronger than the DIA man. This seems to be a question of competence of the individual rather than an organizational matter. The Air Force and the Army, however, represent their own parochial interests and do not coordinate with the DIA man, probably because of his capabilities. The Navy has little interest. DIA's charter seems to be vague on defectors and Army is perhaps even more so, although they pursue what they perceive to be their prerogatives vigorously.

EIC (Guthe)

DIA does an excellent job at the parent committee level. The representative was formerly with J-2 and is very good. DIA has provided members rapidly to all subcommittees, and in many cases have taken over the competence of the Services. They respond promptly to all inquiries and are most cooperative.

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Having said that, Guthe feels that DIA is not particularly competent in this over-all field as compared to CIA (he concedes that because of the basic nature of the economic problem, this would be true of any military intelligence organization). In certain technical fields the quality is good and it remains in the Services, where it undoubtedly should be, e. g., transportation, chemical, etc. Over-all, apart from these special service technical groups the effectiveness varies pretty well with individuals.

Security (Osborn)

DIA is very effective and has more expertise than the Services do. The good people moved up from the Services. DIA provides a central point for Security to deal with and Osborn is pleased with the whole set-up.

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NIS

This committee is of course different than the others in that they preside over a joint production enterprise. DIA has absorbed almost all of the Service responsibilities for inputs to NIS's. The Navy retains a little, but the Army and Air Force are out of business in this connection. DIA took over most of the people who were doing this work although some have been rotated. thinks that the performance is about as it was before with no major gains or losses. (I rather gathered that he is not overwhelmed by the performance either before or after, although he was hard to pin down on this.)

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NOTE

sent in later, direct
Nobody knowledgeable about the SIC was available this week. I understand that Mr. Bross is getting the views of Kent on the BNE and of 25X1 on the Watch and SIGINT.

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