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THE JOINT STAFF

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
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11 January 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board
SUBJECT: Military Requirements and Priorities for
Production of National Intelligence Surveys (U)

1. The Intelligence Directorate, Joint Staff, has recently completed a comprehensive survey of the military establishment for the purpose of determining military requirements for basic intelligence as produced under the NIS Program. The primary purpose of the survey was to obtain data which might serve as a guide in establishing Joint Chiefs of Staff priorities for this program in conformance with the implied responsibilities outlined in the NIS Standard Instructions. The results of the survey have been furnished the NIS Committee.

2. Our study indicates that there is a substantial requirement in the military for basic intelligence of the type provided in the NIS and that initial production and maintenance of the NIS should be continued at the maximum rate consistent with Intelligence Agency capabilities and the actual intelligence situation that governs in particular subject fields. The current production schedule of eight (8) equivalent NIS per annum could in the aggregate be considered a minimum program if the military requirements were to be considered only in terms of the numerical total of sections assigned high priorities. However, there are factors not covered in this survey which, of necessity, limit NIS production.

3. Two courses of action were considered worthy of consideration:

a. Continue the program as presently constituted, schedule production consistent with agency resources, and accept the accumulative calculated risk involved in the shortfall, i.e., several years for completion of initial coverage and increasing obsolescence of published material with concomitant increase in the requirements for updating.

b. Request the NIS Committee to institute wherever possible procedural changes which will expedite the preparation of the NIS in order to make the program more responsive to the requirements of military users.

JCS review(s)
completed.

JCS

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4. Although the survey indicates that there is general satisfaction with the scope, format, and basic concept of the NIS and that the program should be continued, comments on the inadequacies of the NIS, pointed almost exclusively to lack of initial coverage and need for more timely maintenance, would indicate that the interests of the military will be best served by adoption of the course of action in paragraph 3 b, above.

5. In view of the above, I have directed the Joint Staff Advisory Member to the NIS Committee to present this recommended course of action to the Committee. It is requested that members of this Board having production responsibilities in the NIS Program urge the NIS Committee Chairman and other Committee members to pursue vigorously the institution of procedural changes which will achieve the objectives of this course of action.


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Director for Intelligence

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