



ICAF

9 July 1957

Dear General Cabell:

This is a report about reactions received from officials to whom a copy of "Shorthand for Defense Planning" was sent for criticism.

One reaction was astonishment at the big difference between two person's estimates of a defined war risk or a defined defense capability. Such initial differences point up an important value of the proposed method. It brings into sharp focus the difference in key assumptions that otherwise are often obscured. Obscured differences in key assumptions sometimes are neglected only to cause inconsistent and unreasonably divergent conclusions.

The proposed method, first, shows when it is essential to clear up the underbrush of assumptions before being able to trace out the best road ahead. Second, it shows the interrelationships among different risks. Third, it shows the relationship between a defined risk and the comparable defense capability. Fourth, it indicates shortages and overages in research and development programs for defense. The method provides a clearer basis for forming sound judgments.

Another reaction from officials is that the method is useful at the level of operating commands. By changing table headings from risks of future kinds of war to future kinds of work loads, an operating command can work out an evaluation of its capability to handle possible future mission demands. To estimate future changes in mission demands probably is not more difficult, after all, than to estimate national risk of kinds of future war.

With our limited resources we should be clear about our estimates of future risks and to what extent we decide to cover each of them to improve the chances for survival of freedom and our culture.

Sincerely,

*Clark L. Hosmer*  
CLARK L. HOSMER  
Colonel, USAF

Lt. General Charles P. Cabell  
Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.  
ATTN: Mr. Chapin

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