

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

1314

29 January 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

Subject: Intelligence Terminology.

Reference: (a) Memo of Director of Central Intelligence of
2 Dec 1946 [redacted]
(b) CNI Joint Memo to CIG and JIC of 9 Jan. 1947.

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Enclosure: (A) Definitions and Comments on Subject.

1. Enclosure (A) was prepared from the list of words and terms comprising Enclosure (A) of reference (a), in accordance with the request contained therein.

2. While Enclosure (A) includes definitions which have been accepted and promulgated by Naval Intelligence it also contains many which have not been given any official sanction, although they are useful and accurate.

3. Definitions given official sanction in Naval Intelligence are those having peculiar value and use to the organization.

4. The need for common agreement on the meaning and scope of words having a technical meaning in intelligence work is apparent, in view of the specialized and technical phraseology used in the common intelligence effort. It is felt, however, that the officially sanctioned list of definitions should be kept to a minimum, consistent with clarity, and should not include terms having a common or general meaning. This proviso is stated in full awareness of the many definitions applicable to any single word found in standard dictionaries.

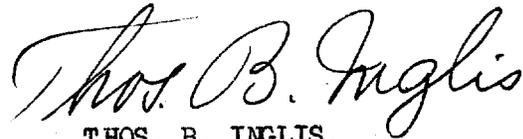
5. In this respect it is felt that many adjectival terms involving the word "intelligence" should be eliminated from the accepted list for purposes of simplicity and clarity. This is particularly true when the term is descriptive of the use to which intelligence is put by the ultimate consumer, and is not of itself descriptive of the type of intelligence.

6. Accordingly Enclosure (A) is forwarded not as the final dictum of Naval Intelligence, but as suggestions for further discussion

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and consideration prior to final decision and acceptance by the participating organizations of the type of professional dictionary referred to in paragraph 3 of reference (a).

7. It is recommended this memorandum and its enclosure be considered in connection with reference (b) and the recommendations therein.



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active intelligence - This term is the result of loose or careless application of an adjective which appears to have no meaning unless applied to intelligence as a mental attribute. It, therefore, is recommended that its use as an intelligence (organization or product) term be discontinued. It is difficult to conceive of an intelligence item being of itself active unless infested by Carpopaps asaltitans, as is the Mexican jumping bean.

agent - One who obtains, seeks to obtain or assists in obtaining information for intelligence or counter-intelligence purposes, but who has no obvious connection with any intelligence agency or officer.

analysis - (1) Separation of an object of interest or of a piece of information into constituent parts or components for clarification or examination of these parts as components separately or in their relation to the whole. (2) A form of statement revealing the results of the analysis.

assemble - To collect into one place or body.

brief - (1) A concise digest or report of an intelligence situation. (2) To instruct in preparation for a specific operation, situation or problem.

clandestine - Covert activities undertaken contrary to the laws and desires of the government of the country, or the organization in which the activities take place.

collation - The act of bringing together for the purposes of verification, comparison or coordination. (This could very well be considered an act required by and a part of analysis.)

collection - To obtain, get or receive, by whatever means or from whatever source, including the intelligence agency having primary responsibility for collection from the initial source, information and data and the subsequent assembling of that information for processing into intelligence. Collection carries a definite connotation of ordered procedure in accordance with a plan to achieve unity of effort.

coordination - The combination, regulation and direction of activities of separate, diverse or subordinate organizations and agencies into a common and harmonious action in accordance with a plan.

correlation - The act of establishing the mutual or reciprocal relationship of separate items of information or data.

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- counter-sabotage - The measures taken to prevent or neutralize sabotage, including the production of intelligence to guide such counter-action.
- cover - (1) To cover, shield, screen or disguise an activity so as to prevent determination of its real character and intent. (2) The device or method used to create cover, shield, screen or disguise an activity from recognition of its real character or intent.
- covert - Hidden, secret or disguised so as not to reveal the real character or intent.
- current essentials of national intelligence - A very loose phrase which has no specific meaning, but like a matrix is capable of bringing forth whatever intent or content that is poured into it. It, therefore, is recommended the term be discontinued.
- departmental intelligence - The intelligence needed by a department or independent agency of the Federal Government, and the subordinate units thereof, to execute its mission and to discharge its lawful responsibilities.
- dissemination - The process of distributing intelligence and information in such manner as to insure that it reaches the individuals or units needing it, in usable form, and in accordance with its urgency.
- distribution - This word has connotations which imply classification by categories. It is recommended it be discontinued in the technical-intelligence sense. Dissemination adequately - and more fully - fills the need.
- document - Any paper conveying authentic information by means of writing, printing, pictures or other visual means of transmitting or preserving such information. Believe general dictionary definition adequate - see no need for including this term.
- double agent - An agent (q.v.) who is serving or employed by two or more principals who are opposed to each other.
- espionage - The employment of secret agents in covert collection of information.
- estimate - In the intelligence sense, a judgment or opinion of a situation based on the available pertinent information and intelligence and including a recital of the salient factors entering into the conclusions. An estimate may be made orally or in writing.
- evaluation - The process of determining the quality and value of the information or intelligence received. Evaluation is one of the important factors in processing information into intelligence.

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exploitation - The act of getting and effectively using information for the production of intelligence.

field intelligence - This is a loose adjectival coupling of the word intelligence, without precise meaning and of doubtful value. Recommend its discontinuance as an officially sanctional phrase.

field office - A subordinate office within the field of an activity, usually connoting a temporary establishment.

functional intelligence - Another example of loose and careless verbiage, arising from a desire to distinguish between handling intelligence on a geographic or regional basis and handling on the basis of a specialized activity cutting across geographic boundaries. If intelligence is not functional it has no justification. It is recommended the phrase be discontinued on the basis of being tautological.

geographic intelligence - Comments and recommendations pertaining to functional intelligence are applicable. In both cases they indicate the use to which intelligence is applied rather than being descriptive and definite of a type or category of intelligence.

grading - This word has connotations of rank which do not seem applicable to intelligence work.

informant - (1) One who gives information or data. (2) An individual who regularly gives information to which he has access.

information - As applicable to intelligence work, facts, data or reports of interest and concern to an intelligence agency, as received from the source, before being processed into intelligence.

informer - (1) Synonymous with informant, but without the connotation of regularity. (2) One who informs against another in an accusing manner.

intelligence agency - An organization, or its subordinate parts, responsible for or engaged in the collection of information, the processing of that information into intelligence and the subsequent dissemination of the intelligence produced.

intelligence brief - A concise digest or report of an intelligence situation. If the words "brief" and "intelligence" are thoroughly understood this definition as a separate item is unnecessary.

intelligence fields - This is another example of loose usage undoubtedly intended to mean the sphere or range of interest to any intelligence activity. While useful it is recommended that it be not included as an official definition.

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intelligence information - This is an adjectival compound intended to limit and restrict information. It is recommended that it be discarded.

intelligence research - This is another adjectival limitation. It is recommended that it be discarded.

intelligence service - Because of the confusion arising from the many meanings and uses of the word "service", it is recommended this term not be included as an official definition.

intelligence target - Because of long established specific meaning and use of the word "target" in the Armed Services, it is recommended that this term be not included as an official definition.

X interpretation - The determination of the meaning of a piece of information or data by translating the language or symbols into terms understandable by those not familiar with the specialized or technical use of that language or those symbols - as in the interpretation of the pro-signs used by communicators.

monograph - If inclusion of this word in the official dictionary is desirable, it is recommended the definition appearing in Webster's International Dictionary be approved.

national intelligence - The intelligence needed by the President and the Executive Branch of the Federal Government to formulate and execute national policy, including, and with special reference to, foreign policy, and to preserve the sovereignty of the United States. National intelligence may be, and usually is, a refinement of the compounded or consolidated departmental intelligence required for the specialized activities of the departments of the Executive Branch.

national intelligence requirements - (1) The kind, quality and quantity of information and intelligence necessary for the formulation and execution of national policy, including foreign policy, and for the preservation of the sovereignty of the United States. (2) The organization and activities necessary to fulfill the requirements outlined in (1). National intelligence requirements include departmental intelligence (q.v.) requirements and the additional elements necessary to produce national intelligence (q.v.).

national policy intelligence - see definition of national intelligence.

origin - That from which anything primarily proceeds. (See source)

overt - Open and undisguised, but not necessarily publicized.

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passive intelligence - See comments and recommendation on active intelligence. Since there is and has been too much passive intelligence (mental capacity) involved, lets scuttle the phrase thoroughly.

political economic intelligence - This is a descriptive term denoting the special subject matter of the intelligence. Definition is not deemed necessary.

positive intelligence - This is another example of verbiage so loose as to have no precise meaning and hence the source of confusion. It is recommended the term be discontinued.

primary interest intelligence - This is another compounded term intended to be descriptive. It is recommended it be discontinued, or replaced by a definition of primary interest.

propaganda - black)
propaganda - white) No comment.

raw information - It is recommended this term be discontinued.

reading center - A center in an intelligence agency, or serving two or more agencies, where incoming information and intelligence reports are read to determine the subsequent routing of the material in accordance with the responsibility and interest of participating units and in accordance with the element of urgency.

reading panel - The group of intelligence personnel operating a reading center, or performing the functions thereof.

regional branch - The outlying branch office of an intelligence agency charged with supervision and control of the intelligence activities of the parent agency in a specified geographical region or area.

reporting manual - Because of diverse meaning of the word "manual" and because of the restrictions imposed by Navy Regulations and the Articles of War on the character and issue of manuals, and on the word itself, it is most desirable that the word "directive" be substituted. The meaning then would be the standing instructions for reporting information or intelligence to the agency or agencies charged with processing it into intelligence and the routine forms to be used.

research - Critical and exhaustive search for new or undiscovered facts and examination of the relationship of the new material with that previously available and the necessity for revising accepted conclusions in light of the new data.

scientific intelligence - See comments on political economic intelligence.

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semi-covert)
semi-overt) - Use of these terms under official sanction would create confusion which would be likely to result in compromise or exposure of covert activities. Because of the necessity for maximum protection of covert activities, it is recommended the use of these terms be prohibited.

static intelligence - Because static pertains to passive and resting, it is recommended this term be discontinued and the intended, and inaccurate, meaning be properly incorporated into the definition of strategic intelligence (q.v.).

strategic intelligence - (1) Intelligence needed by the policy making, planning and logistic officers of the Federal Government to determine national policy, to plan for the furtherance and support of that policy and to assemble the means of enforcing that policy. (2) A category of national intelligence which includes the basic types of intelligence not of direct and immediate concern in the current operations, including naval-military operations, required to support and enforce national policy. (3) In the naval-military sense - intelligence needed by Commanders charged with the determination of policy and planning.

strategic intelligence digest - A digest of pertinent strategic intelligence concerning a specific situation or area.

source - That from which the information or intelligence is received, either initially or at the various stages of transmission. The source may or may not coincide with the origin (q.v.). The source may be a person, a document, observation or any other thing from which information is obtained.

subversive - That which tends to overthrow and destroy, wholly or in part, the authority of the U.S. Government, or any subordinate authority lawfully exercised for support of the U.S. Government, by illegal or illicit means, including force.

(This word needs redefining in the minds of most officers because by lax usage it has come to mean any under-cover activity such as spying or espionage, or any opposition to authority.)

synthesis - The combination of information and previously received intelligence after the various pertinent elements have been analyzed, evaluated and the necessary research work has been done, for the final determination of the meaning and significance of the situation under study.

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tactical intelligence - This presumably is intended to mean the intelligence required for tactical activities in distinction from strategical activities. The definitions of Operational intelligence and of combat intelligence cover the field with more precision. It is, therefore, recommended the term not be given the sanction of official definition.

unwitting informant - This presumably means an informant who has provided information without being aware of it, or of the significance of what he has revealed. It is a useful term in a general sense. However, it is recommended it not be included as an official definition.

vet - This is a Briticism covering the examination, including investigation, of a person being cleared for handling classified material or who is suspected of covert intent or purposes. It is recommended the word be discontinued.

witting informant - Reverse of unwitting informant. Same comment and recommendations are applicable.

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