

25 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: IAC AD-HOC Sub-Committee on Information Processing
SUBJECT : Status Report on Area Classification Coding.

1. The working group has developed the following criteria within the terms of reference by which it judges area classification systems investigated and considered. The group has agreed that a 6-digit system acceptable to all member agencies be:

- a) supra-alpha-numeric in structure and capable of showing political geographic concepts.
- b) flexible to permit geographic expansion, and political change, and accommodate specific or peculiar needs of an individual agency.
- c) adaptable to either manual or machine use.
- d) simple to learn and to use.

2. Listed below are the area classification systems that have been considered to date and the action taken on them by the group.

- a) Air Force, Bombing Encyclopedia - Rejected. The group recognized its merits for targeting purposes, but too much overhauling would be required in order to use since it expands to 14 digits, is not hierarchical in structure and pinpoints too finely with WAC and target breakdowns; it can not show in its present form political geographic concepts.
- b) State Department, Documents Classification Scheme, Part I: Geographic - Accepted in part. Certain features of this code are considered in the final recommendation. It is a 5 digit alpha-numeric code which expands easily. The approach is good; not sufficiently detailed to accommodate elements required by all agencies.
- c) Navy Department, Classification and Coding Scheme for World Wide Geographic Locations - Rejected: It is a straight 7-digit numeric system designed for naval logistics needs; breakdowns are not well suited to intelligence needs.
- d) Army, CIC Area Classification - Rejected. Modifications of AMS area code to suit CIC needs.
- e) CIA, Industrial Register Country Code - The group has discussed the structure of this code in part, but is continuing study of it to compare with the present AMS code and State Department Geographic Classification Scheme.

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3. The NSA representative, [redacted] will present at the next meeting a pattern which she is developing as a basis for an area code.

4. Major Leslie Nelson of the Air Force and [redacted] of CIA have presented a pattern for a classification code.

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5. In view of the fact that several meetings were required to orient the entire group on machine techniques, and the intelligence needs of each agency, the group requests an extension of 30 days beyond 11 March to present its final recommendations to the AHIP Committee.

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Chairman, Area Classification
Working Group

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