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Attachment to  
UISB-D-1.5/13  
24 August 1961

NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER  
ROOM BC 956  
PENTAGON

17 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Request for Allocation of Special Clearances to the  
Watch Committee and the NIC

REFERENCE : USIB-D-1.5/4, 21 February 1961

1. The Kirkpatrick Study Group Recommendation 14 states:

The United States Intelligence Board should review existing compartmentation of sensitive information with a view to achieving more uniform practices and ensuring that essential security safeguards do not result in vital information being withheld from officials and organizations with urgent national security responsibilities.

The Watch Committee, with the Security Committee and the Comint Committee of USIB, has been designated as responsible for action on this recommendation.

2. The Watch Committee believes that the problem addressed in the above recommendation can be dealt with, insofar as Watch Committee and NIC activities are involved, by USIB action to assure provision of the necessary special clearances for the Director of NIC and his deputy, and to each of the Departments and agencies represented on the Watch Committee sufficient for its Watch Committee member, alternate and, where appropriate, its senior NIC representative. This allocation should be in addition to and included in the allocations already assigned each USIB agency. At present the limitation of clearances is such that only a few Watch Committee members and only three members of NIC have access to certain highly controlled intelligence products of presently considerable and potentially critical importance to the mission of

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the Watch Committee. The lack of these clearances in the past has led to hesitation or failure to provide certain information to the Watch Committee. In critical situations in the future the urgency of the moment may not permit the clearance of Committee and NIC members in order that important information can be given them bearing on the crisis at hand.

3. The Watch Committee therefore requests USIB to take appropriate action to assure allocation of the necessary clearances.

4. Within current clearance categories there are certain limitations as to access which are controlled by an authority within the producing agency. The Watch Committee requests that these authorities accept the responsibility of ensuring that access to these materials is given to Watch Committee members, their alternates and at least one NIC member from each agency whenever the material contains information bearing on the indications function.

5. The Chairman of the Watch Committee will keep the USIB informed as to the clearances considered necessary.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WATCH COMMITTEE:

/s/

CHARLES A. NORTH  
Colonel, USAF  
Acting Director, NIC

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