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HTO/STIC OVERT S&T INFORMATION PROCESSING WORKING GROUP

INITIAL CONCLUSIONS - PLANNING PHASE (1/14)

A. SUBSTANTIVE

1. Processing of overtly collected S&T information within the Intelligence Community is fragmented, uncoordinated, inconsistent, and sometimes duplicative. Processing efforts which do exist are directed towards serving the perceived needs of individual departments and agencies with little regard for the requirements of other consumer analysts. For the most part, processing is left to the individual analyst. For overtly collected intelligence information there is no centralized coordinating body and clearing house within the Intelligence Community such as NPIC and NSA for the technical disciplines.

2. Commercial data bases and information systems containing a wealth of useful S&T information are being exploited only to a limited extent because:

- such systems are not basically designed for intelligence purposes,
- management often fails to recognize the worth of the systems,
- analysts are generally ignorant of the real potential of these systems, are not aware of their contents and capabilities, and do not know exactly how to avail themselves of their services.

3. The SAFE System, while potentially of great help to the analyst, does not cover the need for or usefulness of most overtly collected S&T information; it does not include direct access to the CIRC System or to commercial data bases.

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INITIAL CONCLUSIONS - PLANNING PHASE

(Continued)

4. There has been no coordinated effort (and very little individual effort) within the Intelligence Community to identify, acquire and exploit technical evaluations of foreign S&T activities based on open-source information which are being performed by non-intelligence elements of the U.S. Government, by private industry, and by academic institutions.

5. The extremely large volume of readily available open-source information requires development of new handling, processing, and screening procedures. Current processing efforts, both commercial and intelligence community, emphasize storage and retrieval; little effort is expended on condensing, combining, or preliminary evaluation. Even with a perfect storage and retireval system, the analyst simply cannot review every piece of relevant information and still have time to perform properly his analytical function.

b. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHASE II:

1. Phase II of the study cannot be satisfactorily accomplished by a group composed of senior members working only part-time. The working group should consist of at least a few members (2-3) who can devote a significant amount of their time to the effort; or it should be supported by a small full-time staff, or by a contractor, or by both.

2. The Phase II group should include management-level personnel, active analysts (senior and junior), and information systems specialists.

3. Among its objectives, the Phase II group should make a comprehensive review of (1) information handling, storage, and retrieval procedures and (2) content,

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INITIAL CONCLUSIONS - PLANNING PHASE

(Continued)

format, and presentation of information to the analyst so as to be of maximum efficiency and value.

4. Phase II should also cover:

- usefulness of various S&T data bases to analysts of differing needs.

- a survey of information and services already available in commercial data bases, thus not needing to be duplicated, and of that which can or should be done by the Intelligence Community.

5. Phase II should be completed by 31 December 1980. Timing will be dependent on decisions involving B.1. above and availability of people and money.

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PROPOSED STATEMENT OF WORK

PAO Contract on the Processing of Overt Scientific and Technical Intelligence

Introduction

1. Contractor(s) will be expected to establish a contractual relationship with the sponsor that will facilitate the process whereby he can make qualified personnel and facilities available to work on a variety of individual tasks. Purpose of the contract is to provide the sponsor with the expertise he needs to complete a number of specific tasks that were identified as a result of an in-house study on how the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP) can be used to improve the Intelligence Community's processing* of overt** Scientific and Technical (S&T) intelligence to meet the needs of intelligence analysts throughout the Community. Contractor must be capable of providing individuals who have the analytical skills required to complete the assigned tasks. It would be helpful, but not necessary, that some of them be cleared for access to special intelligence information.

2. Sponsor does intend to hold a bidders' conference approximately 10 days after the RFP is released.

Scope of Work:

The four tasks in this contract, described in the following paragraphs, all relate to improving the processing of overt S&T intelligence in order to meet the needs of analysts throughout the Intelligence Community. All tasks funded will be accomplished under the staff supervision of [redacted] of the Program Assessment Office, Resource Management Staff, who will be the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR). [redacted] will work closely with [redacted] Chairman of the Working Group, on the Processing of Overt S&T Intelligence, and Mr. [redacted] HUMINT Tasking Office, Collection Tasking Staff.

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* Processing is a series of actions taken with regard to information from the time it reaches the hands of the collector until it first touches the hands of the production analyst. Steps involved in processing include selection, translation, abstracting, gisting, reproduction, dissemination, indexing, sorting, filing, storage, retrieval, collation and compilation.

** Overt information is that information which is collected by overt means or is generally available to the public. It is most often "open source," i.e., published information, e.g., journals, newspapers, patents, etc., but is not limited to this.

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Background:

1. S&T intelligence analysis draws heavily on overtly collected information in producing finished intelligence, with a trend toward even greater reliance on overt collection. In recognition of the need for improvement in overt S&T collection, the Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee (STIC) in 1977 formed a Working Group to study the capabilities of the U.S. Government for overt S&T collection and reporting. One conclusion of this group is that the high potential for open source collection is not being realized in part because of unexploited opportunities or under-utilized collection capabilities. The volume of overt information presently available is already large, however, and growing rapidly. The group also identified a number of difficulties and problem areas in the handling of S&T information subsequent to its collection, but without exploring any of these in depth.

2. As a logical follow-on to this collection study, the STIC and the HUMINT Tasking Office formed a second interagency working group to examine the processing of overt S&T intelligence. This group, formed in the fall of 1979, is focusing on a review of existing processing methods, an evaluation of the success of these procedures in meeting Community analytical needs, improvements in current practices and on new, more efficient methods in anticipation of future Community needs. This group has made a number of preliminary observations:

- Open source material often has a relatively low intelligence content; to extract information of significant intelligence value, great volumes of material must be reviewed. There is a tendency, therefore, to concentrate on sources of information of higher intelligence content, whose relevancy to immediate problems is more evident, and whose exploitation requires less effort.

- Processing of overtly collected S&T information within the Intelligence Community is fragmented, uncoordinated, inconsistent, and sometimes duplicative. Processing efforts are directed towards serving the needs of individual agencies with little regard for the requirements of analysts Community-wide. A substantial portion of the processing is left to the individual analyst.

- Commercial data bases and information systems containing a wealth of useful S&T information are exploited only to a limited degree because: such systems are not basically designed for intelligence purposes; management often fails to recognize the worth of the systems; and analysts generally are ignorant of the real potential of these systems, are not aware of their contents and capabilities, and do not know exactly how to avail themselves of their services.

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- Current processing efforts, both in the Intelligence Community and in the private sector, emphasize storage and retrieval; little effort is expended on condensing, combining or preliminary evaluation.

Perspective:

The objective of this contract is to provide technical and analytical support to this second working group. The tasks of this working group are:

- Identification and description of the various categories of openly available foreign S&T information capable of being exploited for intelligence purposes.

- Identification and description of the varied requirements of the analytical community for processing of overtly acquired S&T intelligence information. How realistic are the needs stated by the analytical community?

- Description of the existing methods of processing overtly acquired S&T information in sufficient detail so that they can be understood by analysts, management, collectors, and developers of new collection and processing capabilities. Make a comparative evaluation of how these methods are being used to meet the actual needs of analysts.

- Examination of existing new or developing methods of processing which could be applied to improve efficiency, usefulness or decrease volume of material to be processed.

- Recommendations for improving the processing of overtly collected information at three levels:

  -- Better exploitation of processing techniques already available within and outside the Intelligence Community. Probably will involve chiefly education of collectors, analysts and management and improved coordination of present effort.

  -- Improvements in the processing itself. May involve elimination of duplication, reduction or expansion of some efforts, and additional resources to appropriate IC or non-IC entities.

  -- Establishment of new processing entities to consolidate current IC activities and/or make commercial services more directly suitable for intelligence exploitation.

- Recommendations for future study of topics not included in the current effort due to time/resource limitations.

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