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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



21 AUG 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Progress Report on the Implementation of Recommendation No. 2 of the Report to the President by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities dated 20 December 1956

On 20 December 1956 the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities made the following recommendation:

"To insure the proper functioning of the Intelligence Community and to guarantee proper coordination with the military in time of war, we suggest that a realistic appraisal of the Community's organization and responsibilities be undertaken at once. This should be undertaken directly by the Director of Central Intelligence, and he should report his appraisal and recommendations to the Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities."

In my interim report to you on 30 April 1957 I pointed out that the organization of the intelligence community in time of war or peace depends on the collection of directives issued to it by the National Security Council, and that those directives were under detailed review in compliance with Recommendation No. 9 of the Board. This review has now been completed and coordinated drafts of new National Security Council Intelligence Directives have been submitted to the National Security Council. Approval of these directives will leave the intelligence community with a clear set of instructions concerning its organizations and functions and will enable the intelligence community to begin the development of detailed plans to implement these functions in time of war.

During the time since my last report, the decisions taken in revising the National Security Council Intelligence Directives have substantially clarified the role of Director of Central Intelligence in providing "strong centralized direction". This clarification will have an important bearing on the development of our plans for wartime operations.

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In the interim, while the activity described above has been underway, other actions have been taken which will have an important bearing on the wartime posture of the intelligence community. These measures include:

a. The development by the intelligence community of a new system for the reporting of critical intelligence to the highest authorities. This system was put into effect on 21 July 1958 using existing communication facilities and has already resulted in substantial savings in the time required to report items of critical intelligence. It is anticipated that further additional amounts of time in the handling of critical intelligence will be saved as communications facilities are developed specifically for the handling of critical intelligence messages.

b. 

c. Each agency has continued to develop its own plans for survival and maintenance of operations in an emergency situation. The ability of some members of the intelligence community to contact one another and work cooperatively from their respective emergency relocation sites was tested to a limited extent during Operation Alert 1958. The results of this test indicated that the ability to establish communications contact among the various sites is adequate. Inter-agency working procedures should be developed further, however, and their communications should be tested under circumstances involving a higher volume of emergency traffic similar to that which could be expected in an emergency situation.

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3.4(b)(1)
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d. The Central Intelligence Agency has continued to work closely with the Department of Defense, in Washington and overseas, in the development of plans for Central Intelligence Agency Clandestine Operations support in wartime to military operations. The status of the development and testing of such plans is the subject of report under Recommendation No. 3.

In summary, the intelligence community has taken a number of actions which have contributed to our ability to maintain operations in the event

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of war. We have not yet undertaken a formal study of the wartime responsibilities of the intelligence community, pending the revision of the basic directives under which we operate. Approval of the remaining revised National Security Council Intelligence Directives, however, should be received soon leaving the intelligence community a clear field to develop detailed plans concerning our wartime activities.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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