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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

16 DEC 1983  
[REDACTED]

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Charles E. Waterman  
Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council  
FROM : David D. Gries  
National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics  
SUBJECT : Meeting of the Executive Board of NNBIS

The Vice President chaired the 15 December meeting. Also present were Admiral Murphy, Secretary Regan, Deputy Secretary Thayer, Counselor Derwinski, Asst. Attorney General Jenson, White House Drug Advisor Turner, a representative from the Department of Transportation, and the heads of each of the six regional NNBIS Centers.

Four of the regional heads lamented the absence of national intelligence in the Centers; all noted a shortage of intelligence of all kinds. Several regional heads also regretted CIA's reluctance to assign personnel to the Centers as [REDACTED] was doing (in Miami and New Orleans).

When the Vice President asked whether CIA had solved the problem of transferring narcotics intelligence reports to the Centers, I responded that the problem was internally solved in CIA and approved by CIA's General Counsel, but was held up at Justice, where considerations of pretrial discovery had led to further study. The Vice President asked Lowell Jenson for comments, and Jenson responded that Justice remained concerned about protecting sources and methods -- I thought that was our job -- but hoped for a solution soon. After the meeting I asked Jenson if Justice could set a deadline for rendering an opinion, and he agreed to January 15.

Comment: Although we cannot minimize the risks that discovery motions pose to sources and methods protection, the very reports we would like to pass to the NNBIS Centers in sanitized form are already being passed to each of the parent agencies of NNBIS in unsanitized form. These agencies include law enforcement organizations like Customs, DEA, Coast Guard, and the FBI. Thus, our reports have always been at risk regarding discovery motions. It seems to me that Justice is treating an old problem -- and one that can never be completely solved -- as if it were something new and threatening. Stan Sporkin apparently has a similar opinion.

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I think it would be useful if you and I made an appointment to explain our situation in detail to Murphy and his people. The following points could be made:

- As soon as Justice renders an opinion, CIA will have a legal basis for sending reports to NNBIS.
- We must then find an electrical, enciphered channel for doing so. Possibilities under examination include Coast Guard circuits and a circuit through the White House Situation Room.
- Nonetheless, there are fewer relevant reports produced than the Vice President's office may believe. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Murphy wants them all.
- CIA has sound legal reasons for not assigning staff personnel to the Centers. Our legal counsel has reviewed this issue several times and finds that personnel assigned to the Centers could not remain separate from ongoing law enforcement cases to the extent required by Executive Order 12333.
- Nor should CIA staff personnel be assigned to the NNBIS coordinating staff in the Vice President's office. The General Counsel has the same objection to this proposal as to assignment of personnel to the Centers. However, CIA annuitants, if under contract to other agencies, perhaps could be transferred to the Vice President's office for this purpose.
- A team [REDACTED] has visited three of the six Centers to give reports and intelligence training and help develop procedures for intelligence handling. Before completion this project will encompass all six Centers.

[REDACTED]

If you agree, I'll try to set something up with Murphy's office for January.

A few other points are worth mentioning. Murphy presented an overview in which he sketched a rosy picture of interagency cooperation and forward movement in NNBIS. Is he unaware of the real attitude towards the Centers of

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most of the agencies? Nevertheless, he continued, there is more cocaine on the streets than when the South Florida Task Force was established (February 1982) and the Centers went into business (June 1983). This probably reflects a glut which in turn has caused the price to drop and the purity to rise.

The regional heads made some interesting points. [REDACTED]  
slowly closing a surveillance net of radars and COMINT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Northern Region is using an 800 number and advertising to solicit tips from the public and is getting some. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In the Gulf Region, load sizes are down and the variety of concealments is up, suggesting that interdiction is at least making life difficult for traffickers.

*David*

David D. Gries