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Critique of Staybehind Ops. Course #4

In the time allotted for the course, I believe that close to the maximum was achieved in the familiarization of the students with all the elements of Staybehind Operations.

In order to use the manual most efficiently, ample discussion periods are necessary. They were provided and used to the optimum degree in the format of the course programming. The manual is the weakest part of the course because of the considerable requirement for interpretation on the part of the instructor. Had not the instructor provided for this, this deficiency would be even more obvious. We have been told that Training and the originator of the manual are aware of its shortcomings and that these will be corrected. In the present instance, fortunately, this load of instruction, interpretation, and leading or supervising the discussions was handled excellently.

We had been asked during the course, whether we felt that the time spent on the subjects "Establishment of SB Requirements and Objectives," and "General Considerations in Relationship to War Planning," on the first day was well spent. From my own point of view it was most beneficial since the military requirements and relationships as well as much of the basis for the organization of staybehind assets were only vaguely realized. I expect that other non-military personnel in the field in non-official capacities are as nebulous on the actual existing tie-ins of the Stay-Behind Mission with War Planning that is being done currently.

The recordings and supplementary reading material were excellent. The inclusion of the tape [redacted] was fortunate because not only is it of more value staybehind-wise [redacted] but because it is needed in order to round out the picture as regards operations in tribal and non-western areas.

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In view of the trend towards a preference of unilateral stay-behind missions organized on a small nucleus basis, I think that more time should be devoted to the actual problems of such organization with emphasis on how the problems of maintenance, security, cost, training, and advance preparation which apply to all stay-behind organizations can best be met; specifically in having organized along small-nucleus lines.

/s/

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