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Assistant Director, Research and Reports

14 April 1959

Chief, Geographic Research Area

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Comments on [REDACTED] Proposal to the Central
Intelligence Agency

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1. The proposal of [REDACTED] appears to be a bold presumptuous fishing expedition into many affairs of CIA for which they have little or no apparent qualification. In their statement of requirements, which in a sense carries their argumentation for getting involved in the affairs of an intelligence agency, they concern themselves primarily with a series of truisms which by their implied use places [REDACTED] in a position to meet the requirements. I feel that they could well be questioned on the validity of the following statement, "While intelligence planning to date has been effective and adequate, the increasing complexity of the political and technical situations call for a supplemental effort." There is every evidence within the CIA and in the Government structure at large of reduction of effort in the face of the increasing complexity of the political and technical situations; primarily, because conditions seem to be well in hand when judged against money that is available for expenditure. Their implication in the sentence, "The provision of proper analyses of timely intelligence is imperative if posture is to be maintained....." seems to cast doubt on the intelligence community's mechanism and ability to provide the analyses of timely intelligence. There is no evidence that [REDACTED] is in any position to provide proper analyses. Perhaps the thing that should be analyzed is the action taken by this Government based upon its receipt of analyses of timely intelligence. However, this is not an appropriate function of [REDACTED] or of any other outside group but of Government itself.

2. Their proposal that "INTER would conduct operational research and analytical studies to evaluate current and proposed programs in the mission areas of the agency" would be in direct conflict with the basic responsibility that agency officials have in the establishment of current and proposed programs for accomplishment of their mission. This would essentially mean the establishment of another group to do the job which is supposed to be done internally in the agency. Their illustration of one specific mission for [REDACTED] in the evaluation of proposed ID/P projects certainly falls into this category. I would presume that this Agency has already employed and trained personnel to perform evaluations of projects which are proposed to accomplish a specific intelligence objective. There is certainly available in the Agency considerable expertise for the

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examination of projects as they are affected by geographic, economic and socio-political factors. If effective decisions in the Agency are not currently based upon expert evaluations it is not because the capabilities are absent from the organizational infrastructure in CIA. If the overall ability proposed on page 5 for [REDACTED] is not already available in CIA as an integral capability, it would seriously be questioned whether an outside organization--applying a systems concept--could do the analyses that would provide the immediate answers. It appears that many of these proposals regarding the interstructure and workings of CIA are based upon a considerably outdated knowledge of what is going on and do not necessarily apply in application or in specific recommendation.

3. From my point of view I am not impressed on the basis of an examination of the various biographies that a group of mathematicians, physicists, operations analysts, engineers, systems analysts and so on have anything especially significant to contribute to our efforts to do a better job in intelligence. If the Agency determines that something is needed in this regard, I would highly recommend the development of a built-in capability for functioning on a continuing basis.

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