

Assistant Director, Research and Reports

25 August 1960

Chief, Geographic Research:

Comments on Agency Publications Board Staff Study Draft, "Dissemination of Agency Publications Beyond the Intelligence Community", dated 3 August 1960

1. There has long been a feeling in the GEA that a considerable amount of its published materials could be given wider dissemination than they now have with benefit to the public and to the Agency, as has been described in the subject draft study. Whenever the question has arisen as to the possibility for such expanded dissemination, it has usually bogged down in uncertainties and misgivings as to how it might be accomplished. The draft study's discussion of the pros and cons of the problem, as well as the background involved, is most valuable and enlightening.


2. The draft study and the proposed directive and regulation give formal recognition of the desirability and practicality of wider dissemination of suitable intelligence material. They also regularize selection and dissemination of such materials. The recommendations should result in putting this activity on a firm basis and assure a proper and desirable flow of appropriate information to other government offices and to non-government institutions and individuals.

3. There are two questions which might be raised:

a. The placing of ultimate responsibility for approval or withholding of dissemination on any particular publication does not seem to be clearly stated, but is apparently on the AD/CR. The producing component exercises selectivity in forwarding items for consideration for extended dissemination. Is the AD/CR to exercise more than a check list coordination in giving final approval for dissemination? It would seem appropriate for some mechanism outside of the immediate producing office, and other than AD/CR, to authorize dissemination or withholding of each item after a substantive review of the publication and consideration of other implications of its release beyond the UNIB area. OGR could then make the actual dissemination. In any event, the designation of such authority could be more clearly stated.

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b. In Tab D.21 and in III D.4., reference is made to the establishing of a price for disseminated publications when placed on public sale which "reflect a proper cost". In the case of China: Provisional Atlas of Communist Administrative Units (CIA/RR GN 99-20) which was disseminated rather widely, both gratis and by public sale, the price of \$5.00 could not be held to be a proper reflection of the cost of reproduction, let alone the cost of the entire production. It is suggested that consideration be given to a method of setting the price of items which will go on public sale and that such a formula, or statement of policy, would have a proper place in the proposed regulation.

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