

17 December 1971

JMM:

system will not
let me certify

As you asked, I have reviewed with GLC and JGO the CRS proposal to make 18 unclassified reference aids based on open sources available to libraries through a Library of Congress program. We would recommend as follows:

a. The final approval should be the DCI (the proposal is set up for DDI approval only).

b. While this would not necessarily be a program that OLC would recommend at its initiative, there are no overriding reasons to object if it is felt that the release of this material will serve the interests of the Agency. (This position relates solely to the standard reference aids referred to in the proposal and not to any other unclassified material of a substantive nature, e. g., the Fiat report.)

Points of Consideration:

Cons

1. The Agency is a secret organization and should remain so and this is the way Stennis believes we should behave.

2. Is there anything else of an unclassified nature which we would not want to release but which would be difficult to withhold with this as a precedent.

Pros

1. The material is unclassified and could be subject to a public request under freedom of information.

2. Voluntary release of unclassified information may be helpful if we go to battle on legislation or reviews seeking to stop overclassification.

This is really a matter of balancing benefits against risks. Assuming the material meets our normal standards of professional excellence, it is difficult to perceive how these apparently prosaic and noncontroversial reference aids could cause us any problems. [It is to be noted that the material could be distributed on a nonattributable basis but CRS is recommending that it carry the CIA imprimatur as well as the CRS attribution. If attribution were removed the material would still serve a useful purpose, but direct Agency credit may be lost in some instances.]

LLM

17 Dec. '71

Mr. Maury said he would support our position as attached and asked that we relay our views to CRS.

STATINTL

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

OLC 7D35

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

20 December 1971

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. ☐ Deputy Director/CRS
2E-60 Hqs

STATINTL

Mr. Maury has asked me to relay our views to you on your proposal to make 18 unclassified reference aids based on open sources available to libraries through a Library of Congress program:

(a) While this would not necessarily be a program that OLC would recommend at its initiative, there are no overriding reasons to object if it is determined that the release of this material will serve the interests of the Agency. (This position relates solely to standard reference aids and not to any other unclassified material of a substantive nature, e. g., the Fiat report.)

(b) It is assumed that the final approval would rest with the Director.

(c) It is to be noted that the material could be distributed on a nonattributable basis but you are recommending that it carry the CIA imprimatur as well as the CRS attribution. If attribution were removed the material could still serve a useful purpose, even if direct Agency credit is lost in some instances.

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