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12 March 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director

FROM: Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

SUBJECT: Provision of Basic Intelligence [REDACTED] 25X1X7

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Deputy Director, same subject,
dated 8 March 1948

1. The basic reference requires comments from this office respecting the procedure for providing [REDACTED] with basic intelligence. The procedure recommended in memorandum of Assistant Director, R&E, of 25X1X7 4 March was determined advisedly only after a thorough examination of the matter and its implications. A review of the problem in the light of basic reference leads to similar conclusions. The following commentary treats in the first instance with the relationship of CIA [REDACTED] in terms of chief liaison channels, and in the second instance with procedural matters suggested in the basic reference. 25X1X7

2. While the mission of [REDACTED] and its organization do parallel generally our basic intelligence activities and certain activities of the Office of Operations, there are marked differences in the respective intelligence operations and procedures which have considerable bearing on the desirability of establishing CIA as the chief liaison with US intelligence agencies. [REDACTED] is a centralized organization generally serving all basic intelligence requirements. On the other hand, CIA acts in a coordinating, editing, and disseminating capacity for the IAC Agencies where the finished basic intelligence is correlated and produced. Thus [REDACTED] has general control over its basic intelligence from collection through to the final production, whereas CIA must work in cooperation with the IAC Agencies which have this control. 25X1X7

3. Another point which concerns the matter of CIA liaison functions regarding basic intelligence is the established practice of Departmental liaison with foreign governments. The Army, Navy, and Air Force now maintain direct liaison channels with corresponding ministries and [REDACTED]. In turn, [REDACTED] have representatives in our Departmental reading panels. To establish another liaison channel for basic intelligence in CIA would appear to duplicate already existing channels and result only in furthering the well known proclivity to use the multiple-channel method of approach with resulting confusion to our own intelligence agencies. Were the Departmental liaison channels removed, CIA could act as chief liaison with US intelligence agencies, although it is not apparent what advantage this would have over the existing procedure inasmuch as Departmental liaison officers have a familiarity with the nature of requests which insures precise accomplishment. 25X1X7

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Moreover, it would be a rather difficult matter to prevail upon the IAC Agencies to relinquish their direct liaison channels. Finally, if in the interests of policy requirements transcending the validity of the foregoing it is the decision of the Director to establish CIA as the chief

25X1X7 [redacted] with US intelligence agencies, it follows that [redacted] should 25X1X7 serve CIA in a similar capacity.

4. The following comments are confined solely to the merits of the procedural matters suggested in the basic reference without relation to the foregoing discussion. This office is in general agreement with the suggested procedures as they relate to ORE. However, it is not clear whether requests on other agencies are for finished basic intelligence only or include relevant file data. In the latter event, it is anticipated that the work involved by the agencies in correlating and producing required reports might well be prohibitive. For example, the information requested by [redacted], in his letter of 10 February 1948, would involve processing innumerable documents, reports, and miscellaneous data concerning cold weather construction experience. A cursory examination indicates that our entire World War II Arctic experience, such as the Alcan Highway, and operations in Alaska, Greenland, Labrador, and Iceland, would all be germane to this request. In consequence, this office believes that 25X1X7 [redacted] requests upon CIA (and the IAC Agencies) should be confined to furnished basic intelligence, unless the data are readily available and can be produced without serious delay to our own production.

5. Recommendations

a. That CIA serve [redacted] for finished basic 25X1X7 intelligence produced under the NIS or ancillary programs.

b. That [redacted] rely on their established 25X1X7 liaison channels with the IAC Agencies for other intelligence requirements.

c. In the event that CIA is established as 25X1X7 chief [redacted] liaison with US intelligence agencies, that:

25X1X7 (1) [redacted] serve in a similar capacity for CIA and the IAC Agencies, and

(2) That procedures recommended in basic reference be instituted with the exception that the IAC Agencies supply requested material directly to [redacted] rather 25X1X7 than passing it through OCD, and render suitable compliance report to OCD.

[redacted] 25X1A9a

THEODORE BABBITT
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Reports and Estimates

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