

KEY INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS FOR FY 77

INTRODUCTION

The Key Intelligence Questions for Fiscal Year 1977 are issued by the Director of Central Intelligence pursuant to his responsibilities as stated in Executive Order 11905, 18 February 1976. The Key Intelligence Questions represent the DCI's guidance to all Intelligence Community collection and production managers on selected subjects of major importance to national-level intelligence consumers during FY 77.


The Key Intelligence Questions continue to be formulated by the National Intelligence Officers in consultation with intelligence producers and consumers. The primary purpose of the KIQs is to improve intelligence production and collection by providing a highly selective list of current, critical questions for a period of special operational attention. The primary criteria for selection emphasizes current policy needs and areas where the opportunity for better performance exists. The purposeful limitation on the number of questions and their high degree of focus required that difficult choices had to be made from the many current high priority areas and questions. In selecting

Key Intelligence Questions, crisp definition and the likelihood of successful action were placed at a premium. This meant that certain issues or problems, although very important, have been excluded. The duration an issue may exist was also used as a factor in the question selection process. For example, if a problem was considered likely to pass before a strategy for solving it could be devised, it was excluded. Moreover, key problems of a critical nature which currently receive substantial and ongoing attention such as SAL and verification, were not included in the questions.

The National Intelligence Officers will produce brief and succinct KIQ Strategy Reports aimed at developing special collection and analytical strategies. The performance of the Intelligence Community on the KIQs will be evaluated as part of a regular comprehensive evaluation program being accomplished by the Intelligence Community Staff. The KIQs and their performance evaluations cannot provide systematic inputs for resource allocation decisions by program managers due to their limited number, specificity, and emphasis on current operations. However, they can provide valuable insights for programming and planning. It is important to note that the KIQs do not derive their priorities from those appearing in the attachment to DCID 1/2, "U. S. Foreign Intelligence Priorities for Fiscal Years 1979-83." National intelligence planning priorities are based on a

perspective of the foreign environment for the planning period and not on current operational needs.

Additions, deletions, or modifications to the Key Intelligence Questions may be issued from time to time during FY 77, depending on major changes in the international situation or if the foreign intelligence environment should dictate. The order in which the FY 77 questions are listed should not be regarded as implying an internal priority: by definition all the Key Intelligence Questions are of major importance, and are singled out for special operational attention.

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
		Aug 76
TO: NIO/CH		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS		
May I have your comments by COB Monday, 30 August.		
		
FROM: <input type="text"/>		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

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WHICH MAY BE USED.

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