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4 January 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL BRANCH AND GROUP CHIEFS, ORE
SUBJECT : Evaluation of Foreign Service Reporting
REFERENCE : Letter to the Director of Central Intelligence from
the Assistant Secretary of State dated 31 December 1948.

1. The Assistant Director, ORE has directed the Plans and Policy Staff to prepare for submission to the Director of Central Intelligence the information requested in referenced letter, copy of which is attached.
2. Primary emphasis is on the specific questions, but this is not to be construed as precluding additional pertinent information.
3. In order to meet the action deadline, it is necessary that each branch or group have its reply in the hands of the Plans and Policy Staff officer of cognizance by the close of business, Thursday, 6 January 1949.
4. Plans and Policy Staff officers will be available for such assistance as may be required.


Deputy Chief
Plans & Policy Staff

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Attachment:

Letter to Director of Central Intelligence from Assistant Secretary of State, dated 31 December 1948 (Copy).

DOCUMENT NO. 2
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 10/15/79 REVIEWER: 006514

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

December 31, 1948

My dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

I have noted with considerable interest the appraisals on economic and commercial reporting made by end-users in the various departments and agencies of our Government here in Washington. I feel sure that we are in agreement as to the need for the constructive criticisms and carefully evaluated commendations which they have provided on foreign reporting services.

I hope you will concur in my feeling that it reflects great credit on the unified Foreign Service to have about two-thirds of the total reporting performed on economic and commercial subjects rated by Washington end-users as "very good" and "Excellent". An additional thirty per cent is rated as being only "adequate" or merely "satisfactory", and less than one per cent is found to be "unsatisfactory" or "deficient".

While much deserved credit for this record goes to the many conscientious reporting officers in the Foreign Service, I feel a considerable portion is also due to the end-users for the cooperation they have extended in appraising the reporting that they have received. Without doubt, these comments, critical or otherwise, have encouraged better reporting, stimulated morale, and assisted greatly in providing supplementary guidance to the men overseas. They will prove even more useful if we are successful in obtaining funds for the personnel increases necessary to expand spot reporting and made possible a greater degree of promptness in submission of required reports.

As you are doubtless aware, the Hoover Commission on Government reorganization has been studying the operations of the Foreign Service, both in the Washington office and in the field and is expected to present in January some recommendations bearing on our organization. In order to enable me to answer precisely and fully any questions that may arise as to the views that are held by the various end-users, such as yourself, on the efficacy of the service that the Foreign Service is currently rendering, both in Washington and in the field, would you, at your convenience, favor me by giving answers to the following series of questions:

THE C.I.A. HAS NO OBJECTION
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1. As an over-all observation on the reporting services of primary interest to your Agency, how do you regard the caliber of the work presently being performed by the Foreign Service for your Agency?

2. To what extent, if any, do you feel that the service thus rendered you falls short of your optimum desires, citing if possible specific instances?

3. What specific suggestions do you have for improving the character of the field work, including functions other than reporting, which is now rendered you?

4. What is your feeling about the character and adequacy of service you are receiving from the Office of Foreign Service and its various divisions in Washington? In the past year, do you feel that it has improved, remained static, or retrogressed? Do you have any specific recommendations for improvement?

I know that you will be completely frank in your response to the above questions. As your agent in work abroad, the Foreign Service earnestly wishes to do everything possible to service your requests in a manner as nearly approaching your desires as possible within personnel limitations and its over-all responsibilities.

Your counsel on this matter will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John E. Peurifoy
John E. Peurifoy
Assistant Secretary

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