

25X1C8c



Thank you for your kind letter of 7 April 1948 and your expression of admiration for the NIS Program. We may well find it necessary to modify our program in the light of experience as you have already found with regard to yours. For the present, however, it appears to represent as satisfactory a resolution of the various requirements of our intelligence agencies as can be expected.

In answer to your several questions, it should be made clear that the JCS Priority List is only the initial step in developing the NIS Production Schedule. This Priority List requires amendment and revision which will include restatement of areas in terms of NIS Areas. Finally, a tentative production schedule, with dead-lines, will be determined. While this will be based on the JCS Priority List, it will also take into account the production capabilities of our intelligence agencies, who are responsible for producing most of the finished intelligence for the NIS. These agencies are presently engaged in determining their current capabilities for this work. Since our intelligence agencies are organized along regional lines, they will be able to proceed simultaneously in the preparation of NIS on a number of areas without lessening the emphasis being given to high priority areas. Thus, the actual order of production of the NIS may frequently vary from the order of the JCS priorities not only as to areas but as to chapters within areas as well.

I appreciate your desire to obtain a preliminary estimate of our "dead-line dates" pending the completion of the NIS Production Schedule. I regret, however, that we are unable to supply you with any useful estimates until the production capabilities of our intelligence agencies have been determined and the additional funds needed to implement the NIS Program have been made available. I might add that the recommended program envisages the annual production of approximately 15 to 20 NIS.

Forwarded to Director 30 April

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I am in full agreement with you as to the desirability of achieving as much uniformity as possible between the NIS and the [REDACTED]. It does not appear, however, that we are in a position to modify the NIS Program except insofar as it reflects the requirements of our intelligence agencies. This program was developed only after exhaustive examination of the problem by representatives of all the intelligence agencies. It represents considerable compromise of varying and sometimes conflicting requirements and as such is probably as satisfactory a program as we can hope for at this time. The decentralized nature of NIS production, which rests mainly with our intelligence agencies rather than with the CIA, requires that paramount consideration always be given to the fundamental interests and requirements of these agencies.

I am sure, therefore, that you will understand the infeasibility of altering our layout at this time. Until we have gained sufficient experience to warrant any comprehensive revision of our layout, any changes which you might find it practicable and desirable to make in the interests of uniformity would, it appears, be most beneficial.

Sincerely yours,

25X1A9a

ORE:G/Ba [REDACTED]:afc

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