

73-5154

11 SEP 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Termination of the National Intelligence
Survey Program

1. The National Intelligence Survey (NIS) has been produced over many years as an encyclopedic collation of information and analysis of the more or less permanent characteristics and resources of foreign countries. With the pressure of resources, this Program has been whittled down in scope from an earlier extensive effort to provide near contemporaneous information on a wide range of countries. In the past few years, the Program has come under increasing pressure due to the feeling that it contributed comparatively little to high-level national intelligence customers, whatever its contribution at the lower and training levels of the departments. In recent months CIA has come to the conclusion that it can no longer justify the use of its resources for this publication in competition with other requirements. This matter was discussed with the United States Intelligence Board, and at its meeting of 19 July 1973 the USIB noted the CIA decision to terminate the Program and approved a phase-out plan to be implemented during the remainder of Fiscal Year 1974. The attached notification is planned to be sent to NIS customers with respect to this termination.

2. The NIS Program is authorized in paragraph 1 of NSCID No. 3. Termination of the Program would require a revision of the NSCID. Rather than move on this one subject only, however, it is my suggestion that I be permitted also to develop recommendations for possible revision of the other

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NSCID's, which in my opinion will make them more reflective of the spirit of the President's memorandum of 5 November 1971. This would also enable us to reflect and respond to some of the recent Congressional discussions of the role of these NSCID's with relation to the National Security Act of 1947, and the statutory authority under which the Agency and the intelligence community operate.

3. On 20 September I plan to disseminate to NIS customers the attached notification of termination of the Program and, unless you object, I shall defer the revision of NSCID No. 3 until I have developed recommendations for the possible revision of other NSCID's.

W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

Attachment

CONCUR:

Mr. Proctor handcarried to Mr. Colby
Deputy Director for Intelligence

11 September 1973

ADDI/PVWalsh/tb (10 Sept 73)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee w/att	1 - DDI (File: NIS Program) w/att
1 - DCI w/att	1 - DDI Chrono w/att
1 - DDCI w/att	
1 - ER w/att	
1 - AD/DCI/IC w/att	
① - Executive Secretariat/USIB w/att	
1 - Chairman, NIS Committee (Mr. King) w/att	
1 - DDI (File: MCA-40) w/att	

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Termination of the National Intelligence Survey

1. General Survey

a. Program will be terminated by the end of FY 1974.

b. NIS General Survey production programming for FY 1974 will be limited to the following countries: Denmark, Republic of China, Spain, Turkey and Czechoslovakia. The NIS production schedule for FY 1974, approved by the NIS Committee on 24 January 1973, is amended to reflect this change.

c. All inputs from contributing agencies will reach the NIS Division of OBG, CIA, by 1 January 1974. The remaining 6 months of FY 1974 will be devoted to clearing the pipeline and making proper disposition of the files and records. (At present 22 General Surveys--including the 5 listed above--remain in the pipeline, plus 3 or 4 detailed sections.)

2. Inventory

a. NIS publications in the inventory at the end of FY 1974 (approximately 2,000 titles, 3,200 cu. ft) will continue to be available for dissemination through established channels from CIA until existing stocks are depleted.

b. CIA does not plan to continue to reprint on demand titles out of stock. Any NIS reproducibles desired by DIA will be turned over to DIA for retention.

3. Factbook

a. CIA will continue to compile, coordinate, edit, publish, and disseminate an interagency Factbook. It will resemble closely the NIS Factbook in format, scope, and method and scheduling of production.

b. Factbook contributions and cooperation from the DoD, the Department of State, and others must continue if the Factbook is to continue.

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17 July 1973

Questions:

1. Has USIB approved in principle termination of the NIS Program?
2. Is the phaseout program approved?
3. The NIS Committee can play no meaningful part in a DIA decision as to what parts of the NIS Program DIA will "salvage". Is the Committee relieved of that responsibility?

16 July 1973

Report on the NIS Committee Meeting of 11 July 1973

Following the USIB Meeting of 28 June, at which certain decisions were made concerning the NIS, I met with the Board's NIS Committee on 11 July.

I reviewed the USIB Meeting, drawing primarily upon the Draft Minutes as prepared by the Executive Secretary.

I reported my understanding of the situation, as follows:

1. The NIS Program would be terminated before the end of FY 1974 as a result of budget and manpower reductions imposed upon CIA.
2. The NIS Committee would work out a plan to phase out the program and would submit that plan to USIB in the near future. (Work had already begun on this in concert with the NIS Committee members.)
3. CIA would consider ways and means of salvaging the Factbook. (By 11 July, I had been assured by the DDI that necessary budget and positions would be available to continue the Factbook and I so informed the Committee, pointing out that contributions and cooperation as in the past would be essential.)
4. That there was little the Committee -- or CIA -- could do to assist DIA in determining what parts of the DIA-produced NIS

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coverage DIA might want to continue to produce and to publish in existing or new DoD publications. Needless to say, the Committee and CIA would help with records, files, suggestions, and any other feasible manner.

I tabled a draft memorandum to USIB that set forth a phaseout plan and a CIA agreement to carry on its part of the Factbook. The memorandum sought USIB approval of the phaseout plan and the Factbook action, and general approval of any forthcoming DIA proposal to incorporate useful NIS products into its own publications.

In the discussion that followed, it was clear that mine was not the only understanding of the situation. In the end, the other NIS Committee members declined to approve the draft memorandum. In sum, the difference of view revolved around three points:

1. The sense of the USIB meeting of 28 June was not to abolish the program. The NIS Committee was invited to prepare a proposal as to what could be salvaged.
2. CIA, under the terms of NSCID No. 3 (17 February 1972) cannot unilaterally drop out of the NIS Program. Or, if it can, it still has the responsibility to produce intelligence of common concern or see that such intelligence is produced when a requirement for it exists.

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3. A DIA study group is reviewing DoD's requirements for intelligence formerly fulfilled by the NIS. It will determine what parts of the DIA-produced sections DIA will continue to produce and incorporate into departmental publications. The study will also determine what requirements for basic intelligence DIA will have to levy on CIA. The DIA Working Group target date is in September. Any further NIS Committee recommendation to USIB should await the results of the DIA study and clarification of the general areas of confusion mentioned above.

Meanwhile, practical considerations are exerting heavy pressure on the Program. The NIS Division has shriveled from 55 to under 30 since February. Contracts with our research groups in Commerce had to be drawn up for the new fiscal year. We have written them for 6 months only -- to terminate 29 December 1973.

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17 July 1973

Phaseout Plan for the NIS Program
Submitted by the NIS Committee Chairman

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JOHN KERRY KING
Chairman, NIS Committee

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: Executive Secretariat/USIB		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p><i>Linda -</i> <i>Should ref. this</i> <i>with USIB min.</i> <i>item. Thanks</i> <i>Wm</i> <i>NLS</i></p>		
FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION