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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of the Director

22 December 1969

The Honorable Ray S. Cline
Director
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Ray:

Thank you for your comments on "The Effectiveness of ABM Collectors." They are useful indicators of the problems we must solve as this kind of work continues.

I agree that in addition to the problems of extending the methodology and enlarging the scope of such work, future efforts need to resolve some of the questions pertaining to value. At this point, I am thinking of proposing a group comprised of members of CIA, DIA and the State Department, possibly chaired by Jack Thomas, to handle the problem of structuring needs and determining their relative values. Such a group might act under the auspices of USIB, obtaining USIB approval for its final product. The group, in effect, would be responsible for parts a and b of Recommendation 4. NIRB, on the other hand, might assume responsibility for evaluating the effectiveness of collection systems (parts c and d of Recommendation 4).

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[REDACTED] has recommended a panel of independent experts to evaluate the methodology and I have asked [REDACTED] to pursue this recommendation with the ABM Special Study Committee. It seems to me to make sense.

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I also agree that NIRB should evaluate the Study and discuss the pertinent issues. Nevertheless, I believe that a start could be made on work which relates to structuring and valuing needs and determining capabilities of collectors--it has value and is necessary in its own right.

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HANDLE VIA [REDACTED] TALENT-
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Finally, it seems to me that your concern with Conclusion 2 boils down to judgment about the values assigned to the information we expect [redacted] to collect. Certainly the Study shows that these systems should collect some information not heretofore collected. The question is simply how valuable an addition this will be to our over-all base of knowledge. At this point, all I can say is that we need to investigate further.

Sincerely,

25X1A

[redacted signature]

John A. Bross

NIPE:JAB:dm

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