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7 May 1969

COINS LOG

A meeting of the COINS Committee was held in the Director's Briefing Room at NSA at 1300 on Thursday, 1 May 1969. I did not discover this until 1230, so the meeting had started by the time I arrived. There was a full complement of subsystem managers, though ~~X~~ I did not know the State Department representative who sat in for Charles Stein.

Since the last meeting the managers had sent their idea of COINS objectives to George, his staff had glued them together into the objectives which are attachment A, and this set of objectives had been returned to the managers to circulate around their shops for comments. When I arrived [] had just finished DIA's comments on the original set (A), and had substituted a new set (which I hand copied due to a lack of copies):

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1. Design, develop, and implement an experimental inter-agency, interconnected, computer-based, on-line intelligence information system with remote access capability, which will operate at a TS SI security level.
2. To provide practical training and actual experience for intelligence analysts in the use of an inter-agency on-line information system.
3. To collect the necessary data on system usage, efficiency and reliability, and user reaction to permit an evaluation of the feasibility and utility of the operational implementation of a follow-on COINS-like system.

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4. To ascertain the essential characteristics of files which make them suitable for inclusion in an inter-agency on-line intelligence information system.

5. To determine those elements of the system design which encourage and facilitate analyst usage, and those elements which discourage or hinder usage.

6. To determine the elements and attributes which would be critical to the success of a full system for continuing community operations, and develop objectives and specifications for an operational system.

7. To gain insights into the capability of a COINS-like system to:

a. improve utilization of resources of the participating agencies by the centralization of selected information files at one agency for access by all, and

b. enhance the value of intelligence information data files.

Continuing the discussion on the original set of objectives (Attachment A) the NSA manager said that some NSA people objected to training as an objective (#3), and also felt that the objective should be stated by themselves with the back-up ("How is the achievement of the objective to be identified and measured?" and "what constitutes success or failure of this objective?") relegated to a position behind the eight objectives (e.g., as an appendix). Most managers thought the objectives were too long and wordy - one stated 75% of the verbage should be cut out. Because there were many objections, some were attempted to break them down

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as primary and secondary (or "sub-objectives").

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25X1 use these objectives as evaluation criteria and they did not
want to use any words in the objectives that would lead the IHC
off on a tangent. [] stated that he got a lot of flack
at CIA over objective 8 [] and will continue to do
so if any such generalized objectives are selected by the
committee. Those to whom Bob feels he is most responsible ^{thought} ~~feel~~
that such an objective is properly the job of the IHC, not
COINS. Bob also felt that the most important objective of all
hand been left out, to wit: "To test COINS capability to make
data bases in one agency more readily accessible to analysts in
other agencies." There will probably be an attempt to insert
something like that as an objective, probably as a new number 2.

25X1 [] (DIA) rather supported this by saying he felt the real
objective of COINS is to share files, not design a system. In
any event George is going to give objectives one more go-around,
shortening, accenting, and redoing them in the light of the meeting.
The managers will get one more look at the draft of the repackaged
objectives, then he'll add the caveat "may not be able to achieve
all these objectives in the course of the experiment, etc.", have
DIRNSA sign and then send it to the DCI.

In the course of discussions [] stated that after
numerous delays, the NIC terminal to the DIA system has at last
been installed and is operational at NIC - training on that
terminal was supposed to start Monday. (Does that mean the first
training of NIC operators began then - or that previous training

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