

30 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Draft DCI Reply to ASD(I) Letter
of 8 April on COINS: IC Staff
Comments

1. At a brief meeting [redacted] at about 5 PM the day before I went on leave (20 June), I was presented with a new draft reply to Al Hall on the COINS matter. From what [redacted] told me, I understood that my DDI coordinated draft was unacceptable to the DCI and that now [redacted] was to reply for the Director on this matter. I offered [redacted] a couple of sentences to correct a paragraph that dealt with DDI business and departed the scene with assurances that the new draft would be shown to the DDI.

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2. I have just returned from leave to learn that no draft has gone forward for the Director's review. When [redacted] and company heard, via Paul Walsh, that Ed Proctor wanted the original draft to go as written, they sat on the [redacted] letter. They have made some few changes to the DDI draft and have been "waiting [redacted] to return to review the changes".

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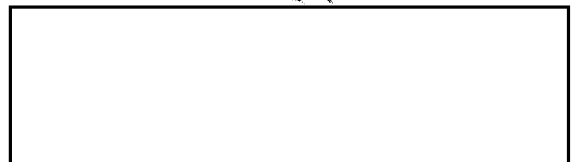
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3. I have attached both versions of the letter. Attachment A is your version. Attachment B has the IC Staff changes. You will see that some of the IC Staff changes are concerned with making the Director speak as the head of the community rather than the Agency. Other changes have to do mainly with tone. I believe the transposition of sentences in paragraph 3 changes the meaning somewhat.

4. If you think any of these suggested changes have merit I will incorporate them in a letter for the Director's signature. If not, I will move ahead with the original version.

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Dr. Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Intelligence)
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Al:

Your letter of 8 April asks for my views concerning two suggestions for increasing CIA participation in the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS).

One of the suggestions is to assign two full-time CIA representatives to the COINS Project Management Office, one for NPIC and the other for the CIA Headquarters elements. Our review of this matter shows that the present arrangements and points of contact are clearly adequate to meet the needs of our analysts in both locations at this time. This situation may change when the upgrading of COINS is more advanced and begins to have more impact on our activities. Until our analysts at Headquarters and at NPIC make greater use of the COINS data base or we anticipate a substantial increase in such use, I see no need for assigning full-time CIA representatives to the COINS Project Management Office.

The other suggestion is that we consider the possibility of using a computer at CIA for providing real-time access to CIA headquarters files. Although we are not yet in a position to make a decision on this matter, I can assure you that we are considering this suggestion. Obviously, the effort involved in providing better community access to CIA files must be justified and shaped by a thoroughly developed concept of what files CIA can contribute to COINS in the future and the additional benefits and costs involved in real-time access to CIA-sponsored COINS files.

We have begun to take steps to get the information we need to make decisions about new COINS hardware at CIA. The CIA Subsystem Manager for COINS is conducting a survey of Agency components that will provide information not only about the present utility of COINS to CIA production analysts but also about any Agency plans for data bases that might usefully be made available to community analysts via COINS. The upcoming COINS workshops to be run by the MITRE Corporation should also provide new insight into how CIA participation in COINS can be made more effective.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director

Dr. Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Intelligence)
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Al:

Your letter of 8 April asks for my views concerning two suggestions for increasing CIA participation in the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS).

One of the suggestions is to assign two full-time CIA representatives to the COINS Project Management Office, one for NPIC and the other for the CIA Headquarters elements. The Agency's review of this matter shows that the present arrangements and points of contact are adequate to meet the needs of CIA analysts in both locations at this time. This situation may change when the upgrading of COINS is more advanced and begins to have more impact on Agency activities. At such time as CIA analysts make greater use of the COINS data base or a substantial increase in such use is anticipated we will be pleased to reconsider this question.

The other suggestion is that we consider the possibility of using a computer at CIA for providing real-time access to CIA Headquarters files. The effort involved in providing better community access to CIA files must be justified and shaped by a thoroughly developed concept of what files CIA can contribute to COINS in the future and the additional benefits and costs involved in real-time access to CIA-sponsored COINS files. Although CIA is not yet in a position to make a decision on this matter, I can assure you that we are considering this suggestion.

We have begun to take steps to get the information we need to make decisions about new COINS hardware at CIA. The CIA Subsystem Manager for COINS is conducting a survey of Agency components that will provide information not only about the present utility of COINS to CIA production analysts but also about any Agency plans for data bases that might usefully be made available to community analysts via COINS. The upcoming COINS workshops to be run by the MITRE Corporation should also provide new insight into how CIA participation in COINS can be made more effective.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director

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Suspense 5 Aug

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Call Monday and tell him that EWP is too embarrassed to send any letter to Mr. Colby in response to Al Hall's 8 April letter re COINS.

EWP says maybe he should take the rap and sign any response to Al Hall. The letter could say: "The Director has asked me to respond to your 8 April letter..." EWP says doing it this way could solve some of coordination problems with ICS.

1 August 1975
(DATE)

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FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)
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MEMORANDUM FOR:

(a different, old COINS matter)

is brokering a compromise version with IC Staff, which promises to reply by Tuesday.

Bug if he doesn't call you by then.

1 August 1975
(DATE)

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