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I. A. 4. Collection

a. Status of NITC

Using the Community reorganization which created a National Intelligence Tasking Center (NITC) discussed at length in last year's report and recently approved on 26 September 1978, we have proceeded to implement this concept for interdisciplinary collection tasking under the management of the Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking.

Quite naturally, much of the year has been devoted to organizational considerations. Since the effectiveness of an organization will ultimately be limited by the quality of its personnel, much attention has been given to identifying and filling the key management positions with individuals whose reputations for objectivity and achievement in the Intelligence Community are attested. With these key positions now filled, the Collection Tasking Staff has worked to set specific objectives which are related to the major collection tasking issues faced by the Community. In the process of formulating these objectives, special emphasis has been placed on developing viable interactions with production and assessment elements in the Community and with the intelligence consumers. Collection needs and their priorities are being identified by means of such management tools as the Current U.S. Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities (DCID 1/2).

The Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking is responsible for five basic functions of which three--the HUMINT, SIGINT, and PHOTINT collection Committees--were ongoing at the time of the Community reorganization. For this reason, the most bold and imaginative thinking has been required for the two new functions which are the National Intelligence Tasking Officer (NITO) approach and the Tasking Architecture Office (TAO). ←

As anticipated in last year's report, the NITC has adopted a National Intelligence Tasking Officer (NITO) approach to address problem-oriented collection by country, region, and topic. The first four NITOs selected are responsible respectively for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; for the PRC and Far East; for Western Europe, Africa, Latin America, and Near East; and for Indications and Warning and Crisis Management. Supported by Associate NITOs with expert knowledge of particular regions or subject areas, and by specialists with long experience of individual collection systems, they have already begun developing collection strategies on priority issues included in the list of National Intelligence Topics approved this year by the PRC(I) or scheduled for National Estimates. At the same time, they provide, for the first time, a permanent mechanism for preparation of ad hoc collection strategies as these are required by events which are either unanticipated or threaten to assume crisis proportions.

The Tasking Architecture Office (TAO) will address problem-oriented collection from a system perspective. While both NITO and TAO will approach collection problems in an interdisciplinary way, the Architecture Office will focus on the future, rather than the current, system. Thus these two missions will perform Community-level collection tasking management by means of complementary roles, i.e., NITO devising optimum current tasking plans using existing ←

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operational collection systems and TAO stressing substantive system changes which should occur to respond to projected tasking needs. TAO will formulate these options for change by initially developing measures of system utility in customer product terms. Such measures are not available today, in part because uniform interdisciplinary measures of collection tasking performance are lacking. These measures, along with specific systems evaluation inputs from elsewhere in the Community, will be merged with non-technical policy constraints in formulating this collection tasking architecture.

b. Collection Committees

The Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking has responsibility for tasking of the three collection disciplines--PHOTINT, SIGINT, and HUMINT--and employs the existing DCI Committee system to address and resolve issues arising within those disciplines.

SIGINT Committee

During 1978, the DCI SIGINT Committee continued to fulfill its responsibilities as delineated in DCID 6/1. During this past year, the review, justification, validation and prioritization of all COMINT requirements was completed. These requirements constitute the initial segment of the National SIGINT Requirements List and have been levied on NSA. A similar process involving all ELINT and FIS requirements is underway. The SIGINT Committee also prepared and obtained DCI approval of guidance for the National Reconnaissance Program for the FY 1980-84 time frame. This guidance, which has been provided to the D/NRO, D/NSA, and D/DIA, provides the basis against which the program managers design, program, and build future SIGINT satellite collection/processing systems. As a separate endeavor, the SIGINT Committee was tasked by the CFI to develop ELINT requirements for the 1984-1994 decade. This study has been completed and the requirements were provided to the D/NRO to serve as the basis for the NRO's ELINT System Configuration Study. A similar study of IR requirements for the post-1984 time frame is currently underway.

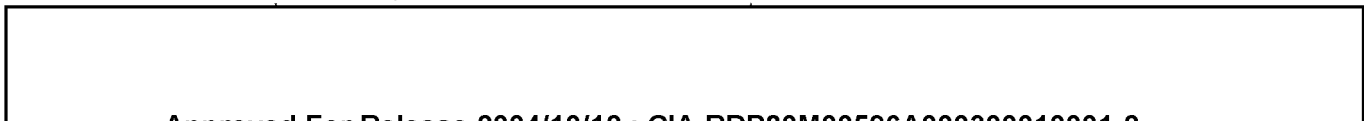
The subject of compartmentation and security was also at the forefront of the Committee deliberations this past year. An extensive review and rewrite of the DCI Communications Intelligence Security Regulations is being conducted. The results of this effort should be a more easily understandable set of regulations governing the control and dissemination of COMINT.

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Throughout 1978, special SIGINT collection sites located worldwide were of major concern to the Intelligence Community. The SIGINT Committee conducted numerous evaluations of the value of reporting from individual sites and developed recommendations on the need to establish permanent collection sites in several countries.

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