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Approved For Release 2000/05/16 : CIA-RDP81-00314R000600220004-3

25 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR : 25X1A [REDACTED] Historical Officer,
Office of Personnel

FROM : Support Services Historical Officer (SSHO)

SUBJECT : Revision of CIA and Its Missing Persons

1. Having completed my review of the first draft of the subject paper, I am returning it for the indicated revisions. It will require extensive reworking and includes both substance and format. Specific queries are noted directly on the copy, and I would emphasize that broad generalities do not contribute to useful, credible history. Because it so frequently fails to deal with the "why," "how," and "who" issues, the revision of the history will have to be something other than a "quick and dirty" job.

2. At risk of repeating notes that already appear on the text, I would just mention that the first paragraph of p. 28 provides a case in point with its mention of an ad hoc committee which was established in July 1955 to handle cases of the MIAs. The next paragraph on p. 28 jumps to September 1958, but nothing has been told to the reader about the make-up of the 1955 task force, its duration, or its achievements.

25X1A 3. In the instance of the discussion of negotiations regarding the possible release of the prisoners -- or at least the release of [REDACTED] -- some 10 pages are devoted to the story (pp. 37-47), but the gaps and confusions which have been indicated on the copy give some idea of how poorly the tale has been told.

25X1A 25X1A 4. It is my opinion that as a result of the decision to relegate [REDACTED] return [REDACTED] to the Epilogue the whole thrust of the history has been weakened. The man has been back from prison for more than 10 months, and surely the authors of the paper must be familiar with the debriefing results which are pertinent to the history. What comments, suggestions, or reactions has he offered with reference to the Headquarters efforts on his behalf?

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5. In revising the paper every effort should be made to eliminate the many instances of special pleading that weigh so heavily in the text. The paper reads as though the authors were constantly fearful that someone might suggest that OP erred in a given case; and, consequently, their constant iteration of how hard working, conscientious, and effective they were gives the reader an uneasy feeling that maybe there is some dirty linen that should be washed out in the history.

6. I would also recommend that the classification of the paper be changed to SECRET. The present controls over the readership of the DDS historical series would seem to negate the need for the EYES ONLY restriction which the report carries. The current interest in the USIB community regarding overclassification of documents would also suggest that second thought be given to this paper's downgrading.

7. I'll be happy to discuss the revision with you or the author(s?). Incidentally, inasmuch as the report is already 10 months late, an additional couple of months for thorough revision would not be out of order.

 25X1A

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Revision of CIA and Its Missing Persons

Chief, Review Staff
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27 October 1972

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Ben:

Returned herewith is the initial draft of the MIA history, together with a copy of the SSHO's transmittal memorandum.

Please return the MIA history through me to the SSHO with the changes and editorial corrections covered in his memo and his marginal notes.

Please note that pages should not be punched on resubmission.

25X1A

Chief, Review Staff