

*The Director*TOP SECRET  
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4 June 1968

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## MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT : Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 6 June 1968

- Item 1 Watch Report  
Draft by Watch Committee to be circulated for Board approval;  
Sponsor - [REDACTED]
- Item 2 NIE on World Trends and Contingencies Affecting U. S. Interests  
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;  
Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

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This paper, which is on the regular estimates schedule, was requested by General Robert Wood, USA (Ret.) who is directing the Joint State-Defense Study Group on "U. S. Overseas Base Requirements through 1978". He asked for an estimate on the "projected world environment" which would place emphasis upon "those areas of the world and those fields of international affairs which have the greatest bearing upon our future military position and overseas bases". In the one reservation (para. 21, p. 22) the Army Representative rejects the judgment that the "Soviet menace is now widely regarded in European opinion as having been inflated in the past and as receding at present". Instead, he argues that West European military leaders do not believe the Soviet threat has diminished; BNE believes however that this argument is not germane to the paragraph.

While there are no other reservations, the military representatives did urge, in the course of the preparation of this paper, that the estimate discuss in some detail the prospects for acquisition and retention of U. S. bases in every area of the world. BNE feels that, while it should discuss the world environment in which U. S. policy will be operating over the next decade, valid specific estimates on most base areas could not be made. BNE believes it is possible this issue may be raised at the USIB.

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- Item 3 SNIE on the Vietnam Situation  
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;  
Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

This paper stems from two separate requests by State and DIA for SNIEs on Vietnam which were, as you requested at the 16 May USIB meeting, combined into a single SNIE. BNE notes that almost all of the questions in both requests have been treated in one section or another, and that the coordination was surprisingly harmonious. To date (Tuesday) the only reservation has been taken by DIA and all the Service representatives to the sentence in paragraph 11, pages 9-10, which states: "The military situation in South Vietnam is not likely to improve much, if at all, for Hanoi by the end of the summer, and it may be worse". DIA and the Services would prefer to strike the phrase "much, if at all", thus making the flat judgment that the military situation is not likely to improve for Hanoi.

- Item 4 Executive Session

Admiral Taylor requested this executive session to discuss the NSA report circulated to USIB Principals only as USIB-S-13.5/44, 14 May. Admiral Taylor has advised General Carter that there are certain questions he feels obliged to bring up for discussion.

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[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Executive Secretary, USIB

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