

**Strategic Warning Staff**  
Washington, D.C. 20501

S-0028/SWS

10 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO/W

FROM : Director, SWS

SUBJECT : Publications of the Strategic Warning Staff

1. Following discussions with you and the members of the Strategic Warning Staff, I have come to the conclusion that the Staff's output should take several different forms, most of which have historical precedent. I propose to produce:

-- Blind Memoranda originated by the Staff on items of immediate warning interest that would contribute to decisions to initiate Alert Memoranda and to their substance. If Alert Memoranda were not appropriate at the time, the Blind Memoranda themselves could be disseminated further in the government.

-- Strategic Warning Briefs to be published as such in a special section in the National Intelligence Daily (NID). These notes would contain warning information that would not necessarily require immediate action but would, nonetheless, be of policy interest. This format, I believe, conforms with my charge from the DCI to revitalize the SWS and make it relevant. Our recent article on the situation in the Arabian Peninsula is a partial precedent for publication in the NID. Difficulties in producing the recent article persuade me that it cannot be done efficiently by forcing it into the mold of the normal current intelligence analysis section in the NID; it should be characterized separately as warning intelligence, i.e., a section entitled "Strategic Warning Brief." By so doing, I believe that we would maintain our independence and would be able to continue to act as "the conscience of the Intelligence Community with regard to strategic warning."

-- SWS Special Reports for which there are precedents and which would contain information more analytical in nature than that put into the NID but would be more topical in nature than that found in a Research Report.

-- SWS Research Reports containing analysis of the warning problem but not discussions of current events per se. This report would replace the SWS Information Report and undesignated special reports of the past.

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2. I would be glad to discuss the foregoing with you if you have any problems with it. If there are no problems I will proceed with the administrative details such as having DIA print a standby stock of appropriate cover sheets for the special finished reports--the SWS Special Report and SWS Research Report. I will also contact Dick Kerr and make the arrangements for future NID items.

3. Under most circumstances I believe the above publication forms will provide a medium for our output and will provide an outlet for analyses by members on the Staff. Occasionally, however, we might attempt to jointly produce an item with either DIA or CIA analysts in their house publications, when the result of the analysis of a Staff member does not have conclusions that bear directly on the warning problem. Such occasions occur from time to time when investigative analysis of what seemed to be a warning problem results in findings of current intelligence interest but of no significant warning interest. I believe such analyses shouldn't be discarded if there is a readership. Joint efforts with DIA and CIA analysts might provide us the easiest outlet.



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Director



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