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REFERENCE

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Estimates

1. I have been studying the scope and range of NIEs during the 60s and early 70s as compared with the late 70s. The subjects that are continuously relevant and should be constantly under Community scrutiny which are no longer the subjects of estimates are, to my mind, truly shocking. In some cases there are gaps of ten years and over. For example, the last estimate on Prospects for International Communism was done in 1964. I have asked for a paper and DDI has produced quite a good one on that subject. I don't know why that shouldn't be put through the Community to see what input comes in from the rest of the Community.

2. The last estimate on Prospects for Argentina [] We will certainly need another one as soon as we can assess the cost of the Falklands adventure, and there is no reason why some spade work on that shouldn't be done now. 25X1

3. There was an estimate on Possible Soviet Military Intervention in the Syrian-Israeli War [] We should get a fairly early estimate on potential for Soviet intervention in Syria, including how the potential and possibility of Soviet intervention would be affected by a possible Iran, Shia-Iraq, Syrian, Lebanon, Libya axis, and the likelihood and implications of such a development. 25X1

4. It looks to me as though the last estimate on Prospects for Nuclear Proliferation was [] Why shouldn't that be looked at by the Community currently? 25X1

5. The last estimate on the Reliance of the Soviet-East European Allies appears to have been [] That subject is being addressed, I understand, by NIO/General Purpose Forces as part of a broader military assessment. It may or may not be a good idea to pull it out and look at it again every couple of years. 25X1

6. I want as soon as possible a Community estimate on US Intelligence Capabilities to Monitor Limitations on Soviet Strategic Weapons. That one appears to have [] 25X1


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8. Next week sometime I will have breakdowns and comparisons which will help us review more carefully the gaps between the issues that are really significant to our interests and the present program of estimates which has been greatly improved but can be further improved. To get you started on broadening and stepping up the pace, I make these initial offerings.


William J. Casey

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