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24 FEB 1972

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Henry:

The enclosed copy of DCID 1/2 and its Supplement, "U. S. Intelligence Objectives and Priorities," is an expression by the Intelligence Community of what it considers are the intelligence needs of the United States Government.

The Supplement lists 71 intelligence objectives and nine sub-objectives and indicates the numerical priority which attaches to each objective in each individual country considered to be of measurable intelligence importance to U. S. security and foreign policy interests. The document is intended to serve as guidance for planning and programming U. S. intelligence efforts over a period of five years. It was developed by a task group including representatives of every major element of the Intelligence Community except the FBI, which considered the subject outside its purview.

USIB concurred in the paper on 21 January 1972. Those objectives which relate to Defense Department needs, and the matrix matching objectives, countries and priorities have been included in the current Annex A, "Intelligence Objectives and Priorities," to the JCS Joint Strategic Objectives Plan (JSOP).

Provision is made in DCID 1/2 for reviewing and revising the Supplement as necessary in order to insure that the document reflects major changes in the international situation or modifications

of U. S. national policy goals, and to maintain a linkage between the objectives/priorities listing and other expressions of U. S. intelligence needs.

This is the most comprehensive expression of its objectives and related priorities yet developed by the Intelligence Community and I am hopeful that it will prove a useful vehicle for eliciting guidance from high level intelligence consumers in furtherance of the program set forth in the President's memorandum of 5 November 1971.

To this end I am now seeking your comments as to how well you consider the listed objectives reflect White House and NSC requirements and how appropriate you consider the assigned priorities to be. I would appreciate any proposals you may have as to addition or deletion of objectives, changes in priorities, or other changes which you consider would improve the utility of the document. Should you desire any additional information concerning the paper, the methodology by which it was prepared, or any other aspect of the project, I would be happy to arrange this.

I am not sending similar letters to the other members of the NSCIC since the Department of State, Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were involved in the development of the document.

As we gain experience in the use of the Supplement to DCID I we undoubtedly will find ways to improve it, but it is my hope that a document of this type can be useful in the planning and programming of intelligence resources.

Cordially,

Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

Enclosure:

DCID 1/2 and Supplement,

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