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IC 75-2404

13 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: Support Mechanisms for the NSCIC

1. You asked for a brief written expansion of my recent verbal observation on the workings of the NSCIC support organization. I had commented that the present draft terms of reference of the NSCIC Working Group appeared to put an overly detailed substantive and management load on a very senior group, and I raised the question whether the "Working Group" should not be at a less elevated level--deriving its authority and direction from what might be called a "Review Group" at your level.

2. Some might argue that this is only a semantic issue, and of course it is, in some measure. Certainly the draft terms of reference for the Working Group allow it wide discretion in establishing sub-groups to carry out much of the detailed work. But the agenda and minutes of the Working Group meetings held so far suggest to me that the title "Working Group" is being taken literally. The Group seemed to be burdening itself with many details which could be thrashed out and resolved by a subordinate group, which would pass completed studies and only unresolved issues to the more senior group for their review, authentication, and resolution.

3. This is not yet a thoroughly staffed out proposition, and you may wish us to give it more thought and preparation before you surface it. [REDACTED] has pointed out some potentially tricky aspects in relation to the workload of PRD, for example, and other questions are raised concerning how the intelligence panel would be set up and managed. However we come out on this, I see this NSCIC mechanism as our principal channel for

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obtaining and documenting consumer views, and I feel it should be exploited fully by PRD without overloading you with time-consuming details. I also feel that the NSCIC mechanism can be effectively used by PRD in the further evolution of the RONI as an authoritative and helpful community review document.

4. In brief, I would see the senior Review Group organized with much the same charter language as that now drafted for the Working Group, but with some of the detailed functions explicitly delegated to a Working Group--chaired by a senior PRD officer and--as now--with representatives of consumer agencies only. The Intelligence Panel would also operate at the level of the Working Group, and would be chaired by the same, or another, PRD senior officer. The studies and findings of both groups would have official status only after they had been reviewed and certified by the Review Group. It would be useful, however, if views of individual agencies expressed in the Working Group meetings could be used by PRD--with that agency's permission--in an attributed way in the RONI.

5. If you see any possible merit in this proposition, I would recommend that we in PRD explore its ramifications more thoroughly after this issue of RONI is put to bed and that we then get back to you and [redacted] in a week or so. Your initial thoughts would be helpful.

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DC/PRD/IC

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