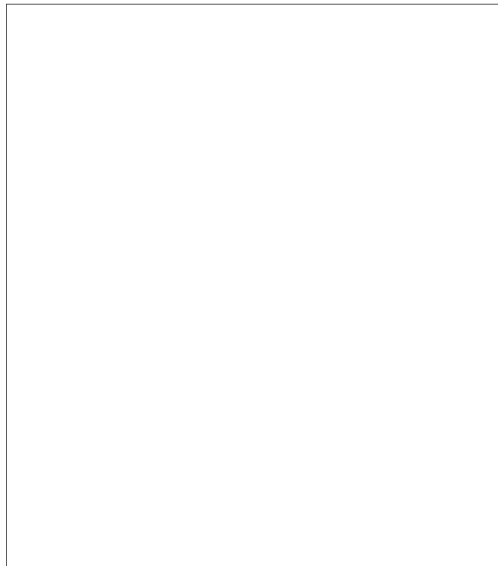


U. S. Foreign Intelligence  
Requirements Categories and  
Priorities *DCID 1/2  
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DCI/ICS # 821001 # 82

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

**U.S. Foreign Intelligence  
Requirements Categories  
and Priorities**

*Prepared for the Director  
of Central Intelligence  
by the  
Intelligence Community Staff*

**Secret**

1 October 1982

Copy No. 489

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# **U.S. Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities**

**1 October 1982**

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## FOREWORD

This statement of U.S. Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities, a fundamental component of the Intelligence Community Planning System, sets forth a priorities classification system. It is issued in fulfillment of the DCI's responsibility to develop objectives and guidance for the Community consistent with the requirements and priorities established by the NSC Senior Interagency Group-Intelligence and is reviewed quarterly by that body. The priorities indicated are intended to provide basic guidance to all intelligence activities, including those concerned with collection, analysis, and production. [redacted]

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The priorities are assigned with reference to requirements categories under which activities within the Community can group requirements according to their needs. It is incumbent upon all such activities to structure their specialized requirements in accordance with the basic pattern of requirements categories depicted in this document. [redacted]


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The requirements categories and their associated priorities are under continuing review. They can and will be revised upon approval by the DDCI of a change nomination from any member of the Intelligence Community. Apart from those unique requirements developed in times of increased tension or crisis, all specific substantive national intelligence requirements lend themselves to prioritization according to the classification system contained in this document. [redacted]

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The fact that this document impacts on all activities within the Intelligence Community engaged in collection, analysis, and production requires that it be given the widest dissemination. [redacted]

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William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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## U.S. FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS CATEGORIES AND PRIORITIES

(AS OF 1 OCTOBER 1982)

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Authority and Purpose

This document sets forth comprehensive requirements categories and priorities to serve as basic substantive guidance for the operation, planning, and programming of the overall US foreign intelligence effort. It is issued pursuant to the DCI's responsibilities, as set forth in Section 1.5 of Executive Order 12333, to translate national foreign intelligence objectives and priorities approved by the NSC into specific guidance for the Intelligence Community and to develop such objectives and guidance for the Community as will enhance capabilities for responding to expected future needs for national foreign intelligence. [REDACTED]

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#### Background

This statement of U.S. Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities is formally revised and reissued annually following a review by the Intelligence Community that is coordinated by the Intelligence Community Staff. The priorities are under continual review, however, and can be revised at any time. Explicit procedures for revision and dissemination of priority changes have been designed for use by all elements of the Intelligence Community and consumers of intelligence product. At a SIG-I meeting on 31 August 1982, it was decided that the National Intelligence Topics of Continuing Interest—which have provided the underlying guidance framework for the priorities in this document—would be eliminated and that the SIG-I would review the priorities directly on a quarterly basis. This decision institutes a procedure for frequent policy-agency review and revision of the priority list. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The priorities data base is automated. Machine printouts of all or selected portions of the matrix data for the current or preceding year are available upon request from the Data Systems Group, IC Staff [REDACTED]

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#### Concept of Use

The requirements categories and priorities set forth in this document reflect solely the relative importance of topical information on foreign countries to the policy formulation, planning, and operations of the National Security Council, its members, and other Federal organizations. They are intended to provide a framework for



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current operational requirements of the collection, production, and support functions, as well as for projecting mid- and longer-range requirements and priorities.

#### **Guidance for Production Planning and Scheduling**

The geotopical requirements categories and priorities contained in this document provide Community-coordinated guidance for the production of national intelligence as well as for the production of all other intelligence of common concern.

All members of the Intelligence Community share a responsibility for keeping the priorities reflected in this document current. Primary contributions within the process are made by major producers and production coordinators as follows: Political topics—the Department of State (INR); economic topics—Economic Intelligence Committee; military topics—DIA; scientific and technical topics—Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee; geotopical subject areas—individual NIOs. These major producers and coordinators are involved in detailed production planning and scheduling and are most likely to be aware of those factors which indicate when changes in priorities are appropriate. Their judgments will weigh heavily in formulating final recommendations to the DCI for making actual changes in priorities.

#### **Prioritizing Collection Requirements**

This statement of intelligence priorities also provides the basis for judging the relative emphasis to be given by the major types of collection activities responding to substantive intelligence requirements. Procedures have been designed by each of the major collection disciplines to use the priorities reflected in this document in determining the emphasis to be given substantive requirements for collection.

##### *DCI Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX)*

COMIREX is charged to provide to the operators of imagery collection systems coordinated guidance which reflects the full range of consumer needs. The geotopical priorities in this document are used as basic guidance by COMIREX as specific intelligence requirements are translated into imagery collection requirements.

Throughout the imagery collection response cycle, substantive intelligence priorities, as expressed in this document, play an important role along with operational factors in determining the attention given to each requirement and the related collection results obtained.

##### *DCI SIGINT Committee*

The SIGINT Committee operates the National SIGINT Requirements System, which embodies the process through which substantive intelligence requirements flow from point of origin to their acceptance as approved SIGINT requirements, and ultimately includes the evaluation of SIGINT products to determine the degree to which requirements have been or are being satisfied from SIGINT sources. The approval of requirements and the evaluation of results obtained are normally accomplished by the SIGINT Requirements Validation and Evaluation Subcommittee (SIRVES) of the SIGINT Committee. SIRVES acts as the mechanism for

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handling SIGINT requirements by maintaining a National SIGINT Requirements List and a National SIGINT Requirements Data Base. [redacted]

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As a part of this mechanism, a specific rationale has been designed for using the priorities in this document in assigning a SIGINT priority to substantive intelligence requirements which are placed on the National SIGINT Requirements List.

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*The National HUMINT Tasking System (NHTS)*

Under the NHTS, the Intelligence Community Staff issues country and subject-oriented tasking plans, which reflect national priorities—both National Intelligence Topics and U.S. Foreign Intelligence Priorities—and collection objectives, and designate the specific intelligence and nonintelligence agencies responsible for collection (including open-source) on each objective. HUMINT priorities are indicated for selected high-priority objectives where dependence on HUMINT, relative to the technical disciplines, is great. [redacted]

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**Guidance for Collection Management**

In addition to their function in the various requirements management systems, the priorities reflected in this document are used for resource and operations planning by those Community organizations which develop, manage, and operate the major collection systems. Each of the major collection system managers is faced with unique operational considerations which strongly influence which substantive intelligence requirements can be planned for and acted on. Collection planning and operations react primarily, however, to the requirements and priorities mechanisms (e.g., DCI collection committees) which take their cues from the NITs and the basic and continuing guidance provided by the priorities in this document. [redacted]

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## II. PROCEDURES

### How to Change Priorities


Any consumer of intelligence product or member of the Intelligence Community may request a priority change. A request to alter an existing priority will receive prompt attention. Requests for changes should be forwarded to the Chairman, DCID 1/2 Committee, Intelligence Community Staff, Washington, D.C. 20505, using the format and instructions shown in Figure 3. Every initiative for change should be documented by the requestor. References to topics or nations should be explicit, using the number and decimal identifier where applicable. 

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The Intelligence Community Staff will be responsible for coordinating change requests with other concerned Community elements and for forwarding requests to the DDCI for approval. 


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### Dissemination of Priority Changes

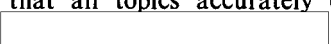
The Intelligence Community Staff will notify holders of this document of any priority changes. Such changes, when received, should be noted in the holder's copy of the document pending issuance of a revised document following the formal review each year. Changes will be announced by memorandum as shown in Figure 4. 

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### Annual Review of U.S. Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities

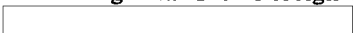
The Intelligence Community Staff will annually convene a group of Community representatives to review this document and to forward recommended changes to the DDCI. A special purpose of this review will be to identify priorities that should be moved downward. Nomination of priorities for upward revision will not be done at this time but can be done at any other time throughout the year using the established procedures. 

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The annual review will include an examination of priority definitions for clarity and current relevance. It will also include the structure of requirements categories as presented in the matrix, to ensure that countries are listed accurately—showing changes in names and political entities which may have taken place—and to ensure that all topics accurately characterize current intelligence needs and concerns. 

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### Quarterly Review by the SIG-I

A SIG-I committee meets quarterly to review current requirements, consider changes in long-range priorities, and review the adequacy of intelligence support for the policy process. The guidance provided by this committee alerts production managers to substantive issues for which added or new emphasis is needed over the longer term and identifies required changes in U.S. Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities. 

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