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EXCOM 9031-80

04 MAR 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Committee Members

FROM:

Special Assistant to the DDCI

SUBJECT : Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting,
27 February 1980

1. The Executive Committee met on 27 February 1980 to continue the annual review of selected ADP applications. Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting; Messrs. Dirks (DDS&T), Wortman (DDA), Clarke (D/NFAC), Stein (ADDO), Lipton (Compt.), and Ware (D/EEO) attended; Mr. Briggs (IG) participated as an observer.

2. In his presentation on the ETECS system, Mr. McDonald (D/OL) emphasized that this computer-based text processing system has been well received and cost effective in its two years of operation. He showed a brief film that reviewed the evolution in producing publications, the current role of the ETECS system in publishing Agency products, and plans for future ETECS applications.

3. Mr. Fitzwater (D/OPPPM) outlined the progress to date in developing PERSIGN, an integrated, centralized personnel information system scheduled to become operational on 9 March. PERSIGN will replace three outmoded computer systems, enabling the OPPPM to provide more accurate, up-to-date personnel information. Planned FY-81 and FY-82 enhancements include the General Archives project, a storage/retrieval system of historical personnel data, and Virtual PERSIGN, a system that will allow Offices access to data on their employees and storage space for unique data needs. In the course of questions and comments, Mr. Johnson (D/ODP) noted the implementation of PERSIGN will free some ODP resources that subsequently will be used for OF ADP applications; Mr. Briggs noted the necessity of remaining alert to the possibilities of accidental spillage of information and mentioned that different standards are being followed across the Agency regarding the disclosure of the names of Agency employees; Mr. Fitzwater said that an audit trail will be available to help determine who has had access to the data; and Mr. Johnson emphasized that attention is being paid to maintaining employee cover situations, and the system will require considerable maintenance.

4. In reviewing OER's computer applications, Mr. (OER) advised the Committee that without these applications, OER could not produce some of the finished intelligence that it does or interpret some of the current intelligence its consumers require. As examples, he cited recent requests for information relating to the Iranian

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25X1 crisis. Mr. [] then noted several ADP issues warranting managerial attention: difficulties in recruiting high caliber economists and computer specialists; the necessity to develop the flexibility to be able to rely on new developments in computer technology; the need for high-speed, reliable storage for 8.4 billion bytes of economic data (some data are now being lost because of the deterioration of magnetic tapes); and the need to consider new means of storage being developed in the DDS&T. In the discussion that followed, Committee members noted that the current ADP review process might stifle innovation rather than encourage it, as the Agency should be doing. Mr. Dirks noted the possibility that Congressional Oversight Committees might someday question why the Agency does not use more resources to increase its computer capacity. The possibility of freeing some Agency ADP funds now used for Community applications for more Agency applications like those developed in OER was raised. Mr. Johnson noted that ODP has the capacity to meet the identified ADP needs of Agency components. He also advised that some of the problems surfaced by Mr. [] -- deterioration of magnetic tapes, requirements for software packages -- were unique to OER because of its particular needs. []

25X1 5. Mr. [] (OD&E) outlined the objectives of DDS&T's MAD computer system, which encompasses all of OD&E's computer support for a major collection system. He explained that the resumption of FY-78 study activity levels and more complex simulations are expected to increase the FY-80 costs of the system. Mr. Dirks noted this system as an example where increased computer capacity could be translated directly into savings in employee programming time. Some programs now take 5-10 hours to run. Mr. Johnson encouraged Mr. Dirks to submit any such requirements to ODP, recognizing the need for sufficient lead time for planning. Mr. Briggs again raised the question of whether it is still desirable to fund a project like this one from the Agency budget rather than the National Program budget. []

25X1 6. Mr. [] also from OD&E, briefed the Committee on PADS, a set of analysis projects collectively used to evaluate system design and performance tradeoffs for another major collection system. This computer system, which costs about \$700,000 per year, enables the Agency to run analytic models of the proposed system design to measure performance against requirements and to verify contractor design analysis. (Mr. Dirks noted some ODP models have been better than those of the contractors) []

25X1 7. Mr. Carlucci adjourned the meeting. []

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ODDCI/EXCOM, [redacted] 1r 4 March 1980