4 FEB 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: STAT
                  CIA Member
                  Information Handling Committee
                  Community Information Retrieval System
                  (IHC/CIRS) Project Management Group   DD/A REGISTRY

FROM: STAT
                  DDA/MS   FILE: 50-2

SUBJECT: Request for Comments on CIRS

REFERENCES: Two Memoranda from   Same   STAT
                  Subject, ODP-83-100 and ODP-83-104, Dated
                  January 17, 1983

83-0378

1.   We have received the references and several other documents
concerning the Community Information Retrieval System (CIRS). With
respect to your request for our input to the consolidated Agency
response to this request, the following paragraphs apply.

2. At this point, it appears that requirements must be more
specifically defined. There are two aspects to the substantive
requirements:

        —What requirement does the CIA have for information
         from CIRS?

        —What requirement does the Community (a definition
         of the CIRS "community" is needed) have for
         information from the CIA?

The documentation and briefings concerning CIRS indicate that the
information to be handled by CIRS is that which exists as "paper
product" today. Therefore, it seems that on the "need" side, the DI
and DO as potential users of information should ascertain what
information is required from CIRS. With respect to the Agency's
supplying information to CIRS, again, the DI and DO (possibly with
the addition of FBIS from S&T and the OS from DA) should determine
which information, if required, they would supply to CIRS. Until
these determinations are made, it is difficult to assess other CIRS
implications.

3.   Technically, the CIRS could be configured as proposed.
However, we believe that configuration choice is premature at this
time. Depending on system requirements, it may be desirable to have

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require. This approach would simplify (although not eliminate) some of the concerns discussed at the 11 January briefing. The distributed configuration presented has merit (no substantial hardware costs), but presumes that the hosts and/or systems concerned can and will provide for automated search, query, holding, dissemination packages, etc. These capabilities can be expensive in both development and operating (loading) costs and are long lead-time items in the system development process.

4. Fundamentally, we believe that the information requirements definition is needed first—mainly a DI and DO responsibility. Following this, technical analysis can proceed.

5. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance at this time.

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