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873-67

14 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: 25X1A
[Redacted]
Special Assistant to the DDI

SUBJECT : Requirements Survey

1. We have reviewed the draft Directorate position on the IG Survey, and find it generally satisfactory. The CGAG proposal is particularly constructive.

2. We have one reservation, concerning the revised Recommendations 1 and 2. Para (b) (2) recommends in favorable terms consideration of a proposal that DCID 1/2 define geographic areas which do not warrant intelligence collection. I think this is very dangerous. Stepping through the looking glass from the requirements world into the real world in which OCI functions, one finds it necessary to live with the White House, PFIAB, Congress and the press. None of these bodies is notably understanding of our problems, and all are pathologically obsessed with "being taken by surprise." The first coup in an obscure African capital on which OCI can shed no light because it has no information, and the world will be told that CIA bungled again. The DCID will not be a shield, but a bludgeon with which to bash us for our lack of elementary foresight. It is easy to envisage USIB in 1959 decreeing that the Belgian Congo was not worth the trouble.

3. OCI works, and is expected to work, where the news is. To adopt this proposal is to make a fundamental change in our mission, one which has ramifications throughout the executive branch. A massive reeducation of our customers and overseers will be required, and some pupils are notable under-achievers in this regard. When Mr. McCone wanted to know something he tended to be indifferent to the fact that information was not available. This characteristic is not unknown in the White House. "It says right here in DCID 1/2 that we don't have to do that" will not be an acceptable excuse.

SECRET

4. Another question which arises is the impact of this proposal on the NIS program. To decide that the US Government is no longer interested in basic intelligence on large pieces of real estate is to transform the philosophy of the program. I am not saying this is undesirable, only that the question cannot be considered solely in the requirements context.

5. Note that I am not addressing myself to priorities. Clearly some areas are more important than others. I am concerned about the absolute judgments which this proposal requires.

E. DREXEL GODFREY, JR.
Director of Current Intelligence

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