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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

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NFAC 4653-81

31 July 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board Principals

FROM: Henry S. Rowen
Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Request for Estimate

1. The Acting Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, has requested an update and broadening of SNIE 6-78, dated 12 December 1978, Likelihood of Attempted Acquisition of Military Weapons or Materials by Foreign Terrorist Groups for Use Against the United States (see attached). Under NFIB's new procedures for estimate production, this paper would appear as a Category I NIE.

2. In accordance with the new procedures, unless an NFIB Principal registers an objection with this office by Monday, 10 August, the National Intelligence Council plans to proceed with this NIE. [redacted] Special Assistant/Nuclear Proliferation Intelligence, will serve as Chairman.

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Henry S. Rowen

State Dept. review completed.

Attachment:
Memo from Dept of State
to C/NIC, dated 20 July 1981

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH
WASHINGTON

July 20, 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Henry Rowen
Chairman, National Intelligence Council
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : Nuclear Terrorism

INR believes it would be useful for the Intelligence Community to prepare an update of the December 1978 SNIE on the "Likelihood of Attempted Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons or Materials by Terrorist Groups for Use Against the United States" (SNIE 6-78, December 12, 1978).

The SNIE's judgments covered only two to three years (1978 to about 1981). Given the increasing concern about terrorism in general and nuclear terrorism in particular, mid-1981 seems an appropriate time for a review of the SNIE's key judgments and a new examination of the problem. An updated SNIE might be broadened to cover the issue of terrorist acquisition of nuclear weapons or material for use against any nation not only against the United States.

We have prepared suggested terms of reference (attached) for your use should you decide to initiate a review and update of the 1978 SNIE.


Herman J. Cohen, Acting

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