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6 December 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM:

Chairman, DCI Intelligence Information Handling Committee

SUBJECT: Monthly Activities Highlights: November 1988

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Community Multilateral Counterterrorist Data System (CMCDS)

The CMCDS system definition study you authorized is well underway. Interagency working groups addressing concept of operations, user services, security and system architecture have been meeting and have produced papers on requirements and issues in their areas of focus. A draft Concept of Operations is in circulation, and the security working group has, thus far, achieved consensus on all issues addressed.

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Supporting contractor personnel have been participating in working group activities, and now have sufficient information with which to begin their specific tasks: (1) to assess the technical changes to DESIST and FLASHBOARD required to meet Community requirements and (2) to estimate the cost of implementing these changes. It is believed the funds available for this support  will be sufficient to complete the study. Community cooperation and participation have, to date, been excellent.

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Within the context of defining a CMCDS that will meet the needs of Community counterterrorist intelligence support personnel, as well as the concerns of security officers with respect to protection of sources and methods, a determination will be made of the official positions of the participating organizations with regard to support for CMCDS implementation, including "data sharing." The report of the study's findings and recommendations to be submitted to you and the Director will, thus, reflect the broader counterterrorist intelligence community as represented in the IICT. Our current goal is to have a draft of that report available for Community coordination in January.

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IC Optical Media Applications Seminar

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A classified IHC-sponsored seminar on Community applications of optical media was well received by attendees. Its purpose was to provide insight into ongoing activities and problems associated with optical technology implementation. Most importantly, several attendees indicated that they saw technology applications by Community agencies that would solve their own organizations' specific problems, and that they would actively seek to acquire copies of systems and associated technologies that were briefed. In addition, special interest groups are being formed to facilitate optical media technology transfer within the Intelligence Community, to share experiences, and to develop the means for exchanging information on optical media. [REDACTED]

Sensitive Unclassified Security Labels

IHC is supporting the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) effort to establish the Intelligence Community's "Sensitive Unclassified" security label as a standard U.S. Government form. Under responsibilities assigned by the Computer Security Act of 1987, NIST is staffing the label proposal through the Government; it may be issued as a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) publication. To this end, NIST is including copies of the Intelligence Community's label standards in its proposal. [REDACTED]

Data Communications Security Labeling Standard

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The IHC technical working group on data communication security labeling standards has developed a draft standard which is being reviewed by the working group. It appears that agreement by the working group on a draft standard can be attained, although considerable work may be required to adequately address all of the details involved. Rapid progress toward completion is deemed important, since new system development projects are now underway which require incorporation of the proposed standard. [REDACTED]

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