

USCIB: 9.3/32

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11 March 1955

~~SECRET~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: Master Requirements List.


Reference: USCIB 9.3/30 of 4 March 1955.

1. It had been the intention of the Acting Chairman of the Board to propose the adoption of the enclosure herewith in lieu of TAB A to the reference had time permitted discussion of the latter at the 113th Meeting of USCIB.

2. Accordingly, the enclosure is circulated for information.

3. On the assumption that USCIB would have directed USCIBEC to continue its consideration of subject problem and unless a Member of the Board should indicate an objection to such action, the Executive Secretary will include the enclosure in the continuing deliberations of USCIBEC and will submit a further progress report at the next regular meeting of the Board.

4. Attention is invited to the Recommendation under paragraph 3b. of the enclosure. The Acting Chairman did not intend to convey the impression that further steps by USCIB in implementing the plan should await IAC approval of the USCIB COMINT Requirements List. Quite the contrary, he feels that the action to seek IAC approval of that list should run concurrently with the additional steps being taken within USCIB to present the Director, NSA with the information he needs to formulate an Implementing Plan. If present wording of the enclosure conveys the wrong impression on this point action to alter that wording would create no problem.

  
RUFUS L. TAYLOR  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosure  
a/s.

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TAB A

D R A F T

1. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that the COMINT Requirements List should meet the five criteria listed below in order to be satisfactory as basic guidance from the Board to the Director, NSA:

a. It should be based on, and be in consonance with, the most recent expression of National Intelligence Objectives.

b. It should ~~not include~~ segregate requirements for information which are beyond, or inappropriate to, COMINT's potential capability to produce from those which are within its capabilities.

c. It should not include requirements for information for which Intelligence needs can be reasonably satisfied by other sources.

d. It should include requirements for information which could be obtained from COMINT which is needed to complement, supplement, or corroborate that from other sources.

e. It should indicate the relative importance attached to the COMINT-produced information pertinent to each requirement, by division of the List into categories of COMINT priority.

f. It must be quickly and flexibly responsive to changes in National Intelligence Requirements Objectives.

2. To produce a COMINT Requirements List which would meet the criteria listed, several operations must be performed. Starting with an authoritative list of Priority National Intelligence Objectives, these successive steps are involved.

~~a. Producing a list of National Intelligence Requirements.~~

~~b. a.~~ Integrating ~~into this~~ all Departmental Intelligence requirements.

~~c. b.~~ Eliminating ~~from this list~~ those requirements which can be fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Intelligence Agencies by other than COMINT sources of information.

~~d. c.~~ Evaluating the potential of COMINT as a source of information in satisfying each remaining item, and eliminating those which are beyond the capability of or inappropriate for COMINT to satisfy or which do not serve to complement, supplement, or corroborate other sources of information.

~~e. d.~~ Dividing the resultant list into categories of relative importance in order to indicate the priority which the Director, NSA should accord to each.

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3. The Executive Committee has considered the several ways in which the above-listed steps could be accomplished, and makes the recommendations indicated after the discussion in the following sub-paragraphs.

a. To produce a list of ~~National Intelligence~~ COMINT Requirements from the current list of Priority National Intelligence Objectives (DCID 4/4 of 14 Dec 54) requires that some provision be made for requirements in support of non-priority National Intelligence Objectives, which are defined implicitly in DCID 4/4 as those which do not "warrant priority in relation to normal coverage." If this can be done without expending the time-consuming effort involved in spelling out a list of the non-priority objectives themselves, it would appear profitable to adopt such a course.

Recommendation: USCIB stipulate, in the carrying out of the succeeding steps in this process, that any requirement for National or Departmental Intelligence which does not clearly and directly relate to one of the Priority National Intelligence Objectives be considered to relate to a non-priority objective.

b. The Committee feels that ideally an authoritative translation of DCID 4/4 into Priority National Intelligence Requirements should be made by a suitable body at the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence in collaboration with the IAC agencies. However, this has not yet been done, and, since there are other means of accomplishing the desired end result, the Committee questions the need for delaying implementation of this plan until an authoritative list is available. The CIA member of USCIBEC is preparing a document from which it is hoped ~~such a translation~~ a COMINT Requirements List can be made.

Recommendation: USCIB note that USCIBEC is preparing a draft of ~~a National Intelligence Requirements List to be attached as TAB C to this report. This draft, when completed will be forwarded to USCIB for approval as a base from which a COMINT Requirements List, will be derived. Concurrently, It would be anticipated that USCIB would seek IAC approval of the USCIB approved draft National Intelligence COMINT Requirements List, when completed. but not of the COMINT Requirements List based thereon.~~

c. As the next steps in the process, it is necessary that ~~National Intelligence~~ COMINT Requirements in support of non-priority National Intelligence Objectives be added to the list adopted as a result of the preceding recommendation, and that any requirements for information needed for the production of Departmental Intelligence (NSCID #3 paragraph d 1) be integrated with them.

Recommendation: USCIB request each IAC agency, through its USCIB member, to submit a list of its requirements which fall within these categories. ~~and~~

Recommendation: ~~USCIB direct the USCIBINTCOM to combine these lists into one list to be added to the Priority National Intelligence Requirements List in order to obtain an overall all-source Intelligence Requirements List.~~

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d. In order to tailor this list to fit the potential capabilities of COMINT as a source, a body competent to assess the potentialities of all sources of information is needed. The individuals comprising this body must have in aggregate not only a thorough knowledge of the peculiarities of any particular source of information, but also a thorough knowledge of the degree to which each source may be expected to fulfill a given requirement. The Committee does not feel that it is necessary that this body be empowered to assign collection tasks to other sources than COMINT, or even to recommend which specific Non-COMINT source(s) be utilized in fulfillment of any requirement. Their task is primarily to compare COMINT versus all Non-COMINT, and determine those requirements for which COMINT is properly the primary, a complementary, a supplementary, or an inappropriate, source.

Recommendation: USCIB designate a committee of individuals having the specified competence, to review the all source intelligence requirements list and ensure that, in the preparation of COMINT requirements steps are taken to: (1) eliminate therefrom all requirements which COMINT has not a potential capability to satisfy or for which COMINT is not an appropriate information source; (2) eliminate therefrom all requirements which potentially are wholly within the capability of a Non-COMINT source to satisfy; (3) indicate those requirements for which COMINT is not the primary information source, but rather is used to complement, supplement, or corroborate information from other sources; and for each the degree to which COMINT information is needed for this purpose.

e. The end product of the operation discussed in the preceding subparagraphs will be a list of intelligence COMINT Requirements properly assignable to COMINT as a source of information. They will be grouped into four categories of intelligence importance, in accordance with the categories of priority of the objectives to which they relate. Those for which COMINT is not the primary source of information will be identified, and for each of these the degree to which fulfillment is dependent upon COMINT-produced information will be indicated. In order to meet the specified criteria, those requirements for which COMINT is not the primary information source should be evaluated and compared with the others, in order that each can be weighed in terms of the relative amount of COMINT effort which is warranted on it, and that it can be then assigned, if necessary, a new category. At this point it may be desirable, or even necessary, to establish sub-categories of COMINT importance within one or more of the four categories of intelligence importance.

Recommendation: USCIB designate USCIBEC to carry out this operation.

f. The final list should be authoritatively reviewed and approved before delivery to the Director, NSA, as basic guidance.

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Recommendation: USCIB review, and approve the completed COMINT Requirements List.

4. Provision must be made for changes in the COMINT Requirements List which are necessitated by changes in the fundamentals from which this basic guidance is derived, and which will probably not occur at the same time as the recommended periodic revision. Such changes will be of the following types:

a. Changes in the IAC list of Priority National Intelligence Objectives, either in substance, such as addition of a new objective or deletion of an objective, or both; or in priority.

b. ~~Similar changes in National Intelligence Requirements.~~

b. e. "Crash" requirements - usually of an interim or temporary nature, which do not result from or in changes in Priority National Intelligence Objectives ~~or in National Intelligence Requirements.~~

Recommendation: USCIB approve all changes in the COMINT Requirements List necessitated by revision of the Priority National Intelligence Objectives ~~or of National Intelligence Requirements,~~ of the nature described in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

Recommendation: Each USCIB member (or his alternate) be required to approve any "crash" requirement, of the nature described in sub-paragraph (c) above, which his agency imposes upon NSA, and concurrently submit this requirement to other USCIB members for approval. In stating such a requirement its priority in relation to the COMINT Requirements List must be indicated, and, if possible, its probable duration.