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USCIB: 9.3/10

4 November 1954

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

Subject: COMINT Objectives, Priorities and Requirements.

At the request of the Director, National Security Agency, the enclosure is circulated for information and consideration in connection with the 109th meeting of USCIB to be held on 12 November 1954.

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

Enclosure
 a/s

~~THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION
 AND SHALL BE HANDLED ONLY IN CHANNELS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED FOR COMINT.~~

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29 October 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB


SUBJECT: COMINT Objectives, Priorities, and Requirements

The present structure of priorities and requirements which guide activities in the field of COMINT production has been in operation for approximately one year, and has afforded sufficient opportunity for study during that period so that some observations on its effectiveness can now be made. I have considered this matter for some time, and while I recognize that requirements problems are almost never simple ones, I believe that certain improvements can be made. I submit the following as general observations to provide a basis for discussion on constructive modifications of the present mechanism:

a. The Master Requirements List does not appear to reflect current National Security needs. The strict arrangement of the objectives implies that low priority items for high priority target countries take precedence over high priority items for low priority countries. I do not believe this was the Board's intention.

b. Many items of the Master Requirements List are phrased in such general terms that guidance is actually dissipated. In some cases, interpretations have varied widely as to the information sought. This is an undesirable situation which can be remedied by a review of these items to make certain that the desires of USCIB are clearly and concisely stated.

c. The Information Requirements supplementary to the Master List are so drawn as to make proper action difficult. To the extent that they sometimes specify types of traffic and lanes to be intercepted, and were designed for particular organizational segments in NSA at the time of their drafting, they are easily invalidated by technical and administrative developments. A review of such a document by USCIB to insure compatibility with the aims of the Master Requirements List is necessary. A modified Information Requirements list expressing needs in intelligence priorities terms could be easily reviewed by USCIB and remain valid over a longer period of time.



RALPH J. CANINE
Lieutenant General, US Army
Director

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