



THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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3 Jun 68

TERMS OF REFERENCE
SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON THE U.S. SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE
(SIGINT) EFFORT

1. The President has directed that there be a special review of the SIGINT activities of the Government to be conducted by the Director of Central Intelligence. A Special Study Group on the U.S. SIGINT effort is hereby established to assist in the formulation of recommendations to the President for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of these activities.

2. The Special Study Group is to conduct an objective appraisal of all significant management, policy and operational aspects of the SIGINT activities of the U.S. Government. The purpose of the appraisal is to make these SIGINT activities as responsive as possible to national needs at minimum necessary cost.

3. In carrying out its appraisal of U.S. SIGINT activities, the Special Study Group shall consider:

- (a) Intelligence needs for signals intelligence;
- (b) Management structures, procedures and responsibilities;
- (c) Policy control and direction of the Service Cryptologic Agencies;
- (d) The resources devoted to military tactical and contingency needs, as well as resources devoted to other national needs;
- (e) Requirement for overseas SIGINT collection from existing foreign bases and alternatives thereto, including satellites and other overseas bases;

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(f) The scope and emphasis of the effort to develop space-borne SIGINT collection systems;

(g) The impact of communications satellites on the national cryptologic effort;

(h) The concept of a computerized national data base of SIGINT information;

(i) The scope and effectiveness of the U.S. ELINT effort, with particular attention to processing techniques;

(j) The role of Third Party SIGINT collection;

(k) The role of the cryptologic community in the production of information in support of intelligence production;

(l) The value of this effort to the Government in terms of whether its cost is reasonably justified by the return in terms of information which is responsive to the Government's strategic needs;

(m) Such other matters which the Special Study Group deems essential to its work.

4. In view of the complexity of many of the issues which the Group will consider, its mission will have been accomplished in certain instances with recommendations for further action and studies to be conducted within the United States Government.

5. The composition of the Special Study Group is at Tab A. The Staff Director will be designated by the DCI.

6. The Special Study Group will submit its report and recommendations to the DCI for forwarding to the President via the Secretary of Defense.

Richard Helms

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Special Study Group on the U. S. Signals
Intelligence (SIGINT) Effort (Eaton Committee)

May 1968

Pursuant to Presidential direction, the DCI established in May 1968 a special study group to review the SIGINT activities of the U. S. Government to assist in the formulation of recommendations to the President for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SIGINT activities.

The Special Study Group was to conduct "an objective appraisal of all significant management, policy and operational aspects of the SIGINT activities of the U. S. Government" and was to consider the following:

1. Intelligence needs for signals intelligence;
2. Management structures, procedures and responsibilities;
3. Policy control and direction of the Service Cryptologic Agencies;
4. The resources devoted to military tactical and contingency needs, as well as resources devoted to other national needs;
5. Requirement for overseas SIGINT collection from existing foreign bases and alternatives thereto, including satellites and other overseas bases;
6. The scope and emphasis of the effort to develop space-borne SIGINT collection systems;
7. The impact of communications satellites on the national cryptologic effort;
8. The scope and effectiveness of the U. S. ELINT effort, with particular attention to processing techniques;
9. The concept of a computerized national data base of SIGINT information;

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10. The role of Third Party SIGINT collection;
11. The role of the cryptologic community in the production of information in support of intelligence production;
12. The value of this effort to the Government in terms of whether its cost is reasonably justified by the return in terms of information which is responsive to the Government's strategic needs;
13. Such other matters which the Special Study Group deems essential to its work.

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