



25 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : John Hicks' Near-Real-Time Memo,
20 February 1970, BYE-3035-70

1. John's memo covers a number of major and minor problems which would take another equally long memo to comment on. My main comments are:

a. EOI system development will inevitably involve a "project team" or "executive task force" type of approach. The major issue for the DDI will be defining where the project as a collection system ends and the product to be used by the DDI begins. Actions related to the project will be under NRO management, etc., but actions related to the use of the product and which affect DDI activities will be undertaken, implemented, and controlled by the DDI outside of the EOI project itself. It will take a good deal of time and study to define this particular interface. Information will have to flow in both directions.

b. There are Agency considerations which are separate from community considerations involved in the EOI. John Hicks' memo, and I think John Crowley's suggestion for NPIC representation, are largely framed in the Agency context. Many of the community considerations such as coordination and handling of tasking (targeting) and

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the coordination and flow of product (reporting, etc.) will have to be coordinated and managed through a mechanism like COMIREX. There are large pressures developing in the commands, etc., to be tied in to the EOI system.

c. A fundamental issue which has to be faced by the DDI and the Project Office is with respect to the processing facility and the degree to which NPIC, as a national entity operating for the community, is involved in a large or small way in its activities. At present the project plan is to have a very small contingent of NPIC PI's to perform initial readout. It won't work in that mode, although it is the simplest arrangement from the point of view of the system developer because it entails the least amount of external coordination and involvement. This is a complicated issue which needs more elaboration than I can give here. NPIC must be tied-in big.

2. The fundamental question on many of the points raised by Hicks is not "whether" but "when". Further NRO ExCom decisions will be made in the next week or two about the pace of the EOI program. These, in turn, will guide the DDI in determining whether he should move with considerable vigor or at a more routine rate at the present time.

3. In any case I believe it makes good sense for NPIC to assign a competent, relatively broad-gaged, person to John Crowley's staff at this stage. This individual would have the opportunity both to influence the shape of programming during the embryonic phases and would be a means of keeping NPIC management well informed of actions and proposals.


Roland S. Inlow

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