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There is a need, especially in times of crises, but at other times as well, for a fusion center of all types of intelligence from the various sources and from the various analysis activities. Such a focus of intelligence information could be the Office of a Director General of Intelligence. He could serve as the national intelligence officer. If he did not have line control over certain collection resources or be administratively in charge of a production or analysis function, he could objectively evaluate the various inputs of intelligence and provide such a storehouse of information to leaders--be they White House, Congressional, Departmental, Agency or other. With proper communications lines to the various collection and production agencies, he could see that resources were properly tasked to serve the national and tactical intelligence needs. Such a system would have strong benefits with regard to being able to provide timely information to decision makers based on the proper balance of inputs from various sources. This would be a National Intelligence Center (NIC), which would be organizationally one step up from the National Military Intelligence Center (NMIC) to coordinate all intelligence information.

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Charles W. Cook