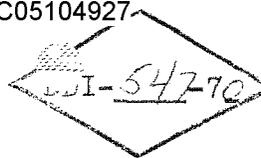


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 BYE-3035-70
 20 FEB 1970
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Near Real Time Photo Intelligence

1. On 4 February 1970 Mr. John Crowley briefed me, John Clarke, Hank Knoche and Dick Scott on the status of and plans for development of an Electrical Optical Intelligence satellite reconnaissance system. In the course of the briefing, Mr. Crowley invited NPIC participation in the project team which he is proposing will carry out the development of the EOI system.

2. I responded that NPIC participation was desirable, but that the project concept so far lacked any scheme for including intelligence production authorities -- such as the Directorate of Intelligence -- in the planning and development. In my view, I said, consideration must be given to how best to link the technical system development with the users' needs in order to achieve Mr. Crowley's expressed objective of developing a "user-oriented" EOI system.

3. The purpose of this memo is to identify EOI-related issues and questions which I feel should be of concern to you, and to offer my recommendations. I have discussed these ideas with Roland Inlow.

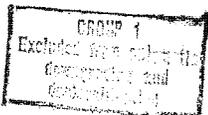
4. Should you support the development of an EOI system? Yes, because:

a. The EOI system promises improvements in surveillance timeliness, coverage and flexibility which would enhance considerably the responsiveness, accuracy and relevance of all-source intelligence analysis and reporting.

we already have

b. The EOI mode of operation promises to be considerably more efficient than the present mode.

5. The Office of Special Projects, Directorate of Science and Technology, proposes to form a project team to plan, to contract and to manage all aspects for the EOI system development. This would include the ground facility in the [redacted] which will process the signals into photography, and which will initially scan the photography for at least system operations purposes. Should

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SUBJECT: Near Real Time Photo Intelligence

you agree to this approach? Yes, with qualification, because:

a. In essence, John Crowley is proposing an executive task force type of approach -- assigning the management of contracts and development work to a full-time, independent team of 40-60 persons. The team would be headed by a project manager who would report directly to the Deputy Director level -- rather than attempt to manage the project through existing offices and officers who have other concerns.

b. The EOI system will be more complex and complicated than any we have yet tried. Quick and responsive communication among the officers involved in development of the various interdependent aspects will be a critical criteria of the success as well as the efficiency and timing of the accomplishment.

c. My recommended qualification to the project team approach concerns the lack of any plan for linking the intelligence producing mechanisms of CIA and DIA into the development work.

6. If you agree to the project team approach, should the Intelligence Directorate participate in the project team? Yes, because:

a. NPIC should be involved in the planning of the film processing and handling end of the EOI system, both to contribute NPIC knowledge and experience, and to gain understanding of those technical aspects peculiar to the EOI system. In addition, there would be advantages to locating NPIC together with the EOI processing facility. - 902

b. Production offices of the Directorate -- OCI, OER and OSR -- should be involved in the planning to give them the opportunity to influence the handling of the EOI product and to coordinate development of compatible analytic and equipment capabilities. COM-REV

c. Intelligence Directorate decisions will be needed on matters such as whether or not space should be allocated in the processing facility for the use of situation task forces and whether or not to include IAS in the facility.

7. How should the Intelligence Directorate participate in the project team? You have choices:

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SUBJECT: Near Real Time Photo Intelligence

a. You might appoint a senior DDI officer (GS-14 to GS-16) as a deputy or special assistant to the project manager -- an officer who would represent you and maintain contact with the DDI offices and services. *Consult*

b. You might assign a less senior DDI officer to that section of the project team concerned with design and development of the EOI processing facility. *no*

c. You might do both of the foregoing.

d. You might assign a DDI officer for liaison with the project team, but leave him located in the Directorate. *no*

e. In any case, an NPIC officer should be located with the project team. *no*

8. What position should you take concerning the participation of the intelligence community in the EOI development work? The Office of Special Projects, DDS&T, is proposing no participation by the Department of Defense, except for the signal relay satellites which will be developed by the U.S. Air Force, and the liaison with NRO. I recommend that you advance the views that:

a. COMIREX should be linked to the project team and its work through a liaison arrangement.

b. DIA should be invited to assign an officer to the office of the project manager. *via Comirex*

c. State Department and NSA should be requested to name liaison officers who would be briefed regularly on the status of the project.

9. I offer the foregoing on the assumption that the Agency will be moving to develop an EOI system. If so, I soon shall be addressing other aspects which particularly concern NPIC.



JOHN J. HICKS

Executive Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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OFFICE OF THE DD/I

DATE: 25 February

TO: ~~Mr. Proctor~~

FROM: Bob H. ✓

SUBJECT: Near Real-Time

REMARKS:

The attached memo from John Hicks on near real-time photo intelligence came in last Friday. For reasons I can't quite explain, it gave me an uneasy feeling that John was charging off in too many directions at once. So I sent a copy to Roland and Herb for comment.

Hicks is proposing a series of things:

- that we should support the real-time system which we already do;
- that the DDI should be involved in a project team being proposed to manage development of the system;
- that NPIC be involved in the project team.

(continued)

C O U N T E R I N T E L L I G E N C E

-2-

There are also more options in this memo than in an NSC paper. I talked to [redacted] and I gathered IRS had no basic problems. I talked to Roland who provided me with some written comments (attached) to the effect that John's ideas may not be bad in theory, but may be a bit premature in some respects.

You have been far more involved in this project than I, but for what it's worth I am not particularly persuaded that OCI, OER, and OSR need to be involved early in the planning stages. It seems to me we have perfectly qualified representatives on COMIREX who could broker the interest of production offices, and it is also my feeling that COMIREX participation in a project team would offer a chance for community-wide participation rather than making the system appear to be exclusively CIA.

You may wish to talk to both John and Roland, and I suspect the time is not far distant when RJS is going to have to be briefed further on the intricacies of this project.

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