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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

14 August 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Fritz Ermarth
C/NIC

FROM: Andre J. LeGallo
NIO/CT

SUBJECT: BRIEFING: Transfer of National Intelligence
Officer for Counterterrorism (NIO/CT)
Responsibilities to the Counterterrorism
Center (CTC)

The catalyst for setting counterterrorism apart as a discrete issue was the kidnapping of General Dozier in Italy in 1982. The general flailing and lack of coordination evident during the resolution of this event was sufficiently serious that some centralization was obviously in order. A transition phase toward more institutionalized efforts in counterterrorism had begun.

The NIO/CT position was created in 1984 following the perceived need for a Community focal point for counterterrorism efforts in the Intelligence Community.

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- The 1985 Vice President's Task Force on Combatting Terrorism designated the NIO/CT as "the focal point to coordinate national counterterrorism intelligence activities and to ensure counterterrorism priorities are established for the intelligence community."

- NSDD 207 (January 1986) appointed the NIO/CT as Chairman of the Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism (IICT), created by the DCI and validated by NSDD 30 (April 1982).

- In 1985, the Critical Intelligence Problems Committee concluded: "Effective Community Leadership is essential and should be the responsibility of an NIO focused solely on counterterrorism."

The next important date was early 1986 when the DCI created the Counterterrorism Center (CTC) in the Directorate of Operations. The purpose of this new organization was to centralize intelligence resources engaged in the counterterrorist effort. The CTC Charter also included three interagency functions:

- Serve as a central entry point to the CIA for other counterterrorist components of the USG,
- Create a "Fusion Center", and
- Provide data base support, intelligence, technical assistance, and training to other components of the USG.

Following the creation of CTC, the then NIO/CT became part of CTC for a brief period. There were too many conflicts between the NIO/CT's National Intelligence Council and CTC duties and he reverted full time to the NIC. However, the motivation behind joining the two offices was correct; in effect, the responsibilities first outlined for the NIO/CT, serving as a focal point for the community, could be performed, and with

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greater resources from CTC. As the NIO/CT, following his brief stint in CTC, is no longer aware of the operational issues, nor of the counterterrorist matters sent to the DCI for resolution by CTC, another attempt to join the traditional duties of the NIO/CT and of CTC seem in order, assuming

- he will have greater resources to serve his focal point role,
- he will be better integrated in the counterterrorist activities of the USG, and
- he will be better able to fulfill his role as the DCI's senior advisor in terrorism and counterterrorism because he will be better aware of the relevant issues being raised with the DCI.

As a result of the transfer of the NIO/CT functions, CTC would provide added coordination and leadership to the Intelligence Community. Among its additional tasks, CTC would

- assume the chairmanship of the Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism (IICT);
- chair periodic threat assessment meetings and disseminate their results;
- produce Intelligence Community spot analysis and typescripts;
- supervise FLASHBOARD and ensure its proper support;
- identify collection gaps and ensure appropriate remedies;
- provide Intelligence Community views and support in policy meetings, including those held with foreign governments, and to senior policy officials;

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- lead interagency teams as appropriate in meetings with foreign counterparts; and
- manage the National Level Terrorism Threat System.

In effect, we are rounding out the transition of the Counterterrorism Intelligence Function that began following the Dozier kidnapping.

Because the functions being added to CTC are of an Inter- agency nature, the C/CTC would perform those functions not as a DO officer, or for the DDO, but in the fulfillment of the DCI's Interagency responsibilities; i.e., he would be serving as the DCI's Special Assistant for Counterterrorism.



Andre J. LeGalio
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for Counterterrorism

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