23 October 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, Tasking Architecture Office

FROM: Chief, Policy Division

SUBJECT: [   ] Request about the Establishment of a   STAT
                  Consistent Requirements Priorities System
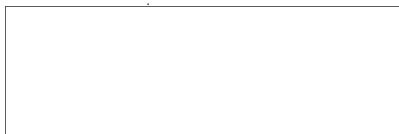
1. At this point in time, I have had conversations with HTO and PTO about the desirability of a requirements priorities system that is consistent across disciplines, but I have not had a formal reply from either office. Both PTO and HTO are open to considering the possible advantage cf such a system.

2. My preliminary assessment is that it is feasible to establish a cross-discipline requirements priorities system. For such a system to work, it is necessary that collection target entities be equatable to DCID 1/2 country-topic priorities in a systematic way. This can bedone fairly easily with both HUMINT and SIGINT target systems. Even in those instances where a target or group of targets involves several DCID 1/2 priorities, it is possible to select an appropriate priority by inspection of the relevant priorities. This is what is done today within the NSRL priority assignment process.

3. PHOTINT collection presents a special problem tecause, regardless cf whether the collection is being done in the search or surveillance mode, the complex of targets at a geographic location of interest often represents such a mix of priorities that the appropriate priority cannot be selected by inspection. What is required to make DCID 1/2 priorities explicitly relevant to PHOTINT tasking is the development of an algorithm for aggregating relevant DCID 1/2 priorities. Such an algorithm is available, but it will need refinement for particular applications.

4. A common requirements priorities system would have three advantages over present arrangements that I can think of. First of all, it would make PHOTINT and HUMINT more responsive to NITs/DCID 1/2 priorities guidance. Both HTO and PTO favor systems that move them in that direction. Secondly, it would facilitate description and assessment of results of collection efforts in terms of the DCID 1/2 categories and topics. Third, it would give a unity and coherence to the overall management of the various collection efforts that would appeal to those outside the Intelligence Community who review the collection process.

5. Without specific inputs from HTO and PTO I cannot tell you yet about the difficulties and costs of establishing a common requirements priorities system. I guess that it would be relatively simple for HTO, but relatively complex for PTO.

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1 - AD/TAO
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