

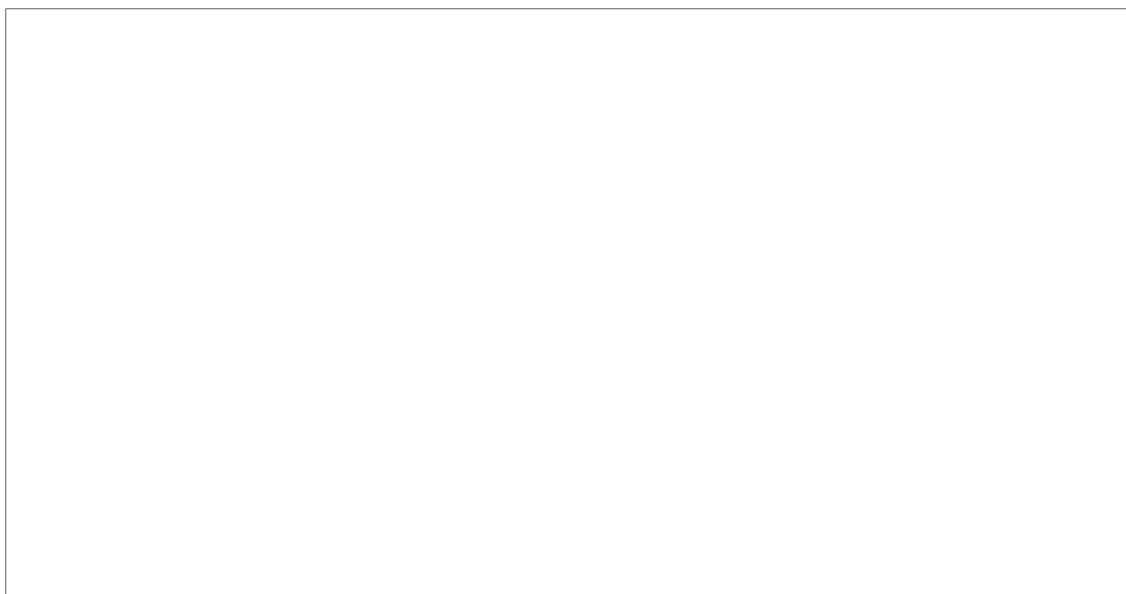


# **Notes from the Director**

**No. 33**

26 October 1978

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## **COMPARTMENTATION AND SECURITY**

Among the impressive achievements of the Intelligence Community in the years since 1947 have been the development of a variety of collection systems, which have made and are making invaluable contributions to our national security. The protection of these extremely sensitive and critical collection programs led to the establishment of compartmentation and codeword systems designed to limit access to their product to those small numbers with a legitimate and demonstrable need to know. As the Community grew and our sensitive collection capabilities expanded, the variety of compartments and codewords proliferated and the numbers of individuals cleared for special access to these compartments reached unmanageable levels.

During recent discussions, I and senior officers of the Intelligence Community expressed our concern about the compartmentation systems and the procedures used to implement them. We questioned whether the existing systems adequately protect our most sensitive sources and whether they permit the dissemination of vital

intelligence to those who truly need to know. We agreed that it was high time for a thorough and objective review designed to simplify our compartmentation systems and still maintain adequate security.

[redacted] an officer with a long and distinguished career in the military and the policy making arenas of Government, agreed to undertake this study. Under his chairmanship a Working Group with representatives from State, ONI, OSD, SAFSS, NSA, DIA, and CIA have produced a report presenting a new concept for compartmentation and codeword systems. In my view, this new concept holds considerable promise for the development of a more effective and manageable compartmentation system. [redacted] has briefed other senior members of the Community on the concept and reports that it is being favorably received.

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The process of moving from a concept to an effective and workable plan in such highly sensitive areas will be extremely complex and will require the unstinting cooperation of all members of the Intelligence Community. I have asked [redacted] to move from his position as an Associate Director of NFAC and to take up new duties on my staff as a Special Assistant to work exclusively on the development of procedures and programs for the implementation of a new system of compartmentation. I have also asked him, as my personal representative, to serve as Chairman of an interagency working group established to carry out the recommendations in the Vogt Report.

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STANSFIELD TURNER  
Director