

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director/Training
FROM : Acting Assistant Director/SI
SUBJECT: Basic Intelligence Course

2
DATE: NOV 3 1952

026
1. We have reviewed the outline which you submitted to us of the CIA basic intelligence course, and we feel that it substantially meets the needs of this Office.

2. Suggestions have been made from time to time that to meet OSI requirements, there should be in this course more specialized training on scientific subjects for those personnel who are destined for this Office. From an over-all point of view, however, it is our firm conclusion that such an approach is wrong. The basic intelligence course is the one opportunity which a potential career officer will have to become thoroughly grounded in the basic principles of the intelligence processes as a whole. Any attempt to inject specialized training for a particular Office would tend to vitiate the breadth of training which we feel to be highly important.

3. With personnel who have had no intelligence experience and even with a great majority of people who had World War II intelligence experience, two aspects of training are of major importance:

a. A fundamental reorientation of thinking habits so that the graduate of the school approaches a problem from the point of view of an intelligence officer rather than that of a scientist, economist, etc.

b. The graduate have a real understanding of the scope, structure and complexities of the intelligence organizations of the Government as a whole.

4. One of the greatest deficiencies which we find in our analysts is lack of knowledge of the intelligence tools which are readily available for their use either within CIA or within other agencies of the Government, both IAC and non-IAC. Anything which can be done during the course to familiarize the students of these tools will be of tremendous value.

5. Another weakness is in the broad field of requirements. Most analysts have little knowledge of the responsibilities or capabilities of any of the collection organizations or collection

- 2 -

methods. Also, being in varying degrees unfamiliar with the availability of information in Washington, they tend to expect far too much of the collecting agencies and therefore flood collection channels with requirements which are either needless or not adequately tied to the more important intelligence objectives.

6. We appreciate being consulted about the course and hope that the above comments will be of some use to you.

STATINTL

STATINTL

OSI/  jb

Distribution:

- Orig. & 1 - forward
- 1 - AD/SI
- 1 - Admin/GSS/SI
- 3 - Ops/SI