

29 November 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, ORE

SUBJECT: Crisis Situations

REFERENCES: (a) Your Circular Memorandum, November 8th.  
(b) Memorandum to CCAPS from Assistant General Counsel, November 18th.

1. Someday there probably will be a Standing Committee meeting on the above subject as one has been requested by the Air Force, but the Army is not yet ready. Others more or less go along with the November 10th draft, copy of which is attached.

2. On points not covered in the General Counsel's memorandum (copy of which was sent to you), all other suggestions in your memorandum of November 8th cannot be used.

a. The "24-hour-duty" is an internal operating responsibility inappropriate for an overall directive on this subject. Most, if not all, of the Departments already maintain such a service.

b. There should, in the first instance, be only a draft estimate as the DCI wishes to call the IAC together promptly. At the same time he calls that meeting, he may request ORE for a brief draft estimate which he can use at the meeting for discussion purposes. He may leave the meeting to give an oral estimate of the crisis situation to the President or NSC. He does not wish to go to the President before talking with the IAC.

c. We think your suggested paragraphs 4 and 5 would demote a "crisis situation" to an "exceptional" or "urgent" one provided for in DCI 3/1. The purpose of this new directive is to supplement DCI 3/1 in providing for crisis situations, an even faster method than usual, and to let the IAC members themselves have their say ..... although there will not be the lowest common denominator collective responsibility.

3. ~~4~~ Other suggestions received to date are a new paragraph 1 definition:

(1) A Crisis Situation will be considered to exist when an event has occurred or when there is a probability that in the immediate future an event or events will occur that may

**TOP SECRET**

gravely affect the security of the Nation and therefore demand immediate attention and decision by the President or the NSC.

(2) The simple future "will" should be changed to the directive "shall" throughout.

(3) New paragraph 4 of November 10th draft: The IAC members shall bring with them to the meeting any documents and persons from their agencies deemed essential to an adequate consideration of the problem.

(4) New paragraph 5: The IAC members shall give their views, comments, and reactions on the draft estimate of the crisis situation to the DCI, and he shall then prepare the estimate in finished form for immediate appropriate distribution.

PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief,  
Coordination, Operations,  
and Policy Staff

Attachment

cc: ✓ General Counsel

**TOP SECRET**

# MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attachment Missing