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SAPG-2699
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1 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations

SUBJECT : Procedure for Determining Intelligence Requirements for AQUATONE

1. AQUATONE is a clandestine intelligence gathering operation. Accordingly, its operations must be designed to meet as fully as possible intelligence requirements emanating from the whole intelligence community and to meet high priority requirements ahead of those carrying lower priority. In order to do so, procedures must be established for (a) accumulating intelligence requirements and (b) assigning relative priorities to them. These procedures must not jeopardize the security of the Project and they should be as simple and informal as possible. The following arrangements are believed to meet these requirements.

2. There is already in existence an informal requirements committee consisting of a representative of A-2, SAC; a representative of the Director of Intelligence, USAF; and the Project Intelligence Requirements Officer (Mr. James Reber). This committee will be expanded to include a representative of the Director of Naval Intelligence and a representative of G-2 (if Admiral Espy and General Gaither both desire such direct representation and do not wish the Air Force to present all their requirements). It is believed that the Project Intelligence Requirements Officer can represent CIA as a consumer of raw intelligence, but if this is not satisfactory to the DDI, he will be asked to name a representative. It is assumed that the representative of the Director of Intelligence, USAF, will speak for the Air Force as a whole and that the SAC representative will function only as an observer. The Project Intelligence Requirements Officer will chair the committee, which, thus constituted, should be able to make the necessary priority judgments.

3. It is proposed that the committee do its work in the following stages:

(a) The first task will be to secure intelligence requirements from the several intelligence agencies, together with the judgment of each agency as to the relative priorities to be attached to its own requirements.

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This operation is already in progress and is being carried out through the members of the committee as representatives of their agencies. The Project Director of Operations will indicate the form in which requirements would be most useful for the guidance of operational planning.

(b) The second task to be performed will be that of assembling the various requirements in comparable form after their submission and in such a way as to indicate the points on which either further information must be requested of the submitting agencies or priority judgments must be made by the committee. This task will involve staff work rather than deliberation or decision making and will be performed by the intelligence staff under the Project Director of Operations.

(c) After requirements have been submitted and assembled in a form suitable for consideration, the committee will be asked to meet for the purpose of resolving questions of priorities and finally putting its approval on a consolidated statement of requirements in a form that will provide useful guidance for operations under this Project.

(d) From time to time while operations are in progress the committee will be asked to review the original statement of requirements and to modify it in the light of new intelligence obtained through AQUATONE and through other channels.

4. Assumptions as to the scope of operations under AQUATONE and the operational concept to be employed will be provided to the committee as needed through the Project Intelligence Requirements Officer by the Project Director of Operations. Without prejudging the exact form in which requirements will be stated, it will clearly be desirable to separate out a narrowly limited category of top priority targets, and perhaps to distinguish two other levels of priority as well. Moreover, it will be desirable to establish these categories of requirements for each major region within the whole target area, since the areas accessible at any given time will largely be determined by operational factors.


RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

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RMB:gjg (25 Nov 55)

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