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SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

16 APR 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Board of National Estimates

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SUBJECT: Scheduling of NIE 11-6-64, Soviet Capabilities and Intentions with Respect to Biological Warfare

1. As you know, the subject Estimate was scheduled for USIB consideration on 20 May with contributions due in ONE on 1 April. During the NIE scheduling meetings, it was indicated that there was no real press for this NIE and additional time would be given for research if required. SIC is to be a major contributor on technical aspects of the problem.

2. The SIC has taken a first cut at the available evidence and has prepared a draft study. In our view, the evidential base and the analysis of it are deficient, even as a working level study, and certainly would not be adequate at present to support judgements in the NIE. There has been no clandestine reporting which would shed any light on the problem. We must rely heavily on careful analysis of open literature, plus technical interpretation of photography and communications. In many cases, there is a wide margin for interpretation of the evidence we have and the judgements of specialists are frequently 180 degrees apart.

3. For the above reasons, we are making a concerted effort to review all the technical literature and to re-examine photography and communications. We also are requesting priority collection by certain technical means. This process of review will take about two months. I recommend, therefore, that the NIE be officially re-scheduled in order to allow time for us to furnish you with a more satisfactory technical analysis. During this period, we plan to have four all day technical review sessions which, we hope, Mr. [redacted] and/or Mr. [redacted] will be able to attend. In any case, I will keep them informed of our progress.

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4. The above information has already been passed verbally to Mr. [redacted].

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[redacted signature]

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Chairman

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