

DD/ST# 749-65

10 February 1965

Misc. 6

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Computers (Hardware Replacements)

1. During the past few months OCS has worked on a study of our hardware requirements for the next several years. This study was deemed timely because:

- a. Our projected workload cannot be handled on our present equipment.
- b. Efficiency can be increased greatly by consolidating our computer skills (which are now directed toward a mixture of hardware) through an integrated hardware and programming system.
- c. A hardware configuration is needed which provides greater flexibility within our Computer Center and which provides hardware backup--both in short measure now.
- d. During the past year computer manufacturers have announced a new "third generation" of hardware. Major technical advances in circuitry reliability, micro-miniaturization, processing speeds, multi-programming operation, software compatibility, and lower costs per unit of data processed characterize these "third generation" systems. These are significant management and technical advantages.

2. The OCS study included a thorough look at present and projected requirements. Such major new projects as CHIVE (document/information retrieval), SANCA (security records handling) and the proposed computer-driven management system for the DD/S were considered. The accommodation of such extra-OCS computing activities as Project WALNUT from our CIA Computer Center is becoming technically feasible; unprecedented flexibility in the coupling of remote input/output devices to share a central multi-programmed processing unit is now attainable.

3. After a review of the technical documentation on this study and a critique by senior OCS personnel, I have concluded that their recommendation to move immediately in the direction of IBM System 360 implementation is thoroughly sound. Conversion from our present IBM and RCA systems would be gradual over the next two-three years. In replacing our present equipment, we can substantially increase capabilities at no increase (possibly a reduction) in rental costs.

4. I view the proposed conversion to the IBM 360 System as a major step because:

a. The OCS hardware direction for several years to come will be set.

b. This hardware decision for the CIA Computing Center is certain to influence future hardware decisions and policies for other elements of the Agency. (BOB, already aware of the technical feasibility of driving such remote systems as Project WALNUT from our central computer, can be expected to perceive as well the potential dollar saving by such consolidation.)

5. In view of the importance of this issue, I have arranged to brief you, [redacted] on 19 February 1965 at 1030 hours in your office on my plans for upgrading our computer hardware systems. The purpose of this briefing is to solicit your counsel on the plan and to request your endorsement to proceed.

for

[redacted]
Assistant Director
Computer Services

cc:

[redacted]