

USIB-D-51.1/20
19 May 1972

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Restructuring of the National Intelligence
Survey (NIS) Program

REFERENCE: USIB-D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963

1. The attached memorandum from the Chairman, National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Committee forwards a Committee recommendation that USIB approve the plan to discontinue production of NIS topical detailed sections by the end of FY 72 and to integrate on a selective basis broadly useful material from those sections, as appropriate, into the new General Survey.

2. Mr. King advises that budget and manpower reductions for FY 73 require still deeper cuts in the NIS Program. The NIS Committee believes that what remains can best be made to meet important needs of the national security community by placing full emphasis on production of a coordinated, high-quality, and broadly based General Survey. During early 1972, the proposal submitted in this memorandum was subjected to extensive field comment, which indicated that loss of detailed coverage would be felt adversely by a number of specific Army, Navy and Air Force commands. On balance, however, the Committee believes that concentration on the production, structure, and organization of the new General Survey would utilize the remaining resources better than the present disparate program and, in addition, would retain the interagency framework needed to meet any future requirements for an expanded national basic intelligence effort.

USIB ACTION REQUESTED

3. Board Members are requested to advise the Secretariat by close of business 31 May of their concurrence or other views on the NIS Committee recommendation in paragraph 12 of the attachment.

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Executive Secretary

Attachment

Group 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Restructuring of the National Intelligence Survey
(NIS) Program

REFERENCE: USIB-D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963

1. The NIS Committee recommends that publication of topical detailed sections be discontinued as part of the NIS Program and that emphasis and remaining resources be directed toward production of a restructured General Survey, expanded on a selective basis by inclusion of some of the more broadly useful material from the detailed sections.

Rationale

2. Gradual attrition of the detailed sections over the years has produced a melange of topical coverage (see attachment). Shifting requirements for basic intelligence, a more realistic appraisal of what the NIS Program can achieve, and dwindling resources have each played a role in eroding the original program concept of worldwide, up-to-date, and well-integrated topical coverage. Discontinuance of topics was in each case agreed to only after careful consideration of identifiable user requirements and priorities and a review of the availability of alternative coverage. It is now evident that the cumulative effect of the attrition is a program shaped more by the series of resource cutbacks imposed over the years than by the process of restructuring the program to better meet changing priorities and requirements.

3. Budget and manpower reductions for FY 73 require still deeper cuts in the NIS Program. However, the NIS Committee believes that what remains can best be made to meet important needs of the national security community by placing full emphasis on production of a coordinated, high-quality, and broadly based General Survey. During

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early 1972, the proposal submitted in this memorandum was subjected to extensive field comment, which indicated that loss of detailed coverage would be felt adversely by a number of specific Army, Navy, and Air Force commands. On balance, however, the Committee believes that concentration on the production, structure, and organization of the new General Survey would utilize the remaining resources better than the present disparate program and, in addition, would retain the interagency framework needed to meet any future requirements for an expanded national basic intelligence effort.

Plan

6. Programmed production of the topical detailed sections would be discontinued by the end of FY 72.

7. The General Survey, slightly expanded and restructured in a bound-by-chapter format, would become the body of the program. In addition to providing greater efficiency and flexibility in maintenance, the new format will enable the NIS to incorporate into the appropriate chapters -- or as separate annexes -- some of the more widely useful data now contained in the detailed sections. This will apply particularly to DoD-produced information. Production of the General Surveys will be guided primarily by the priority areas and subjects specified in DCID 1/2.

8. The Basic Intelligence Factbook would continue to be published semiannually in both the classified and unclassified versions.

9. The detailed section on oceanography would be continued for another year pending the completion of an assessment of interagency requirements in this field.

Impact

10. The plan would reduce the number of production units by about 25% from FY 72 levels and would reduce significantly resources required for the overall NIS Program. The expected savings have been anticipated in the reduction in NIS resources programmed for FY 73.

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11. The NIS Committee invites the Board's attention to the concomitant reduction in departmentally published basic intelligence formerly available to supplement the NIS. In some cases, the losses sustained have impinged on the same geographic and subject areas as those affected by reductions in the NIS Program. The necessary concentration of community effort on certain priority areas and topics, as a direct consequence of manpower and budget cuts, is certain to reduce community research capabilities and production on areas considered to be of lower priority, for example, Latin America and Africa south of the Sahara.

Action Requested

12. The NIS Committee requests that USIB approve the plan to discontinue production of NIS topical detailed sections by the end of FY 72 and to integrate on a selective basis broadly useful material from those sections, as appropriate, into the new General Survey.



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JOHN KERRY KING
Chairman, NIS Committee

Attachment:
Attrition of NIS Detailed Sections

18 May 1972

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ATTRITION OF NIS DETAILED SECTIONS

