

24 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

SUBJECT : Establishment of Remote Computer-Served
Station at NSA on Line to NPIC

1. The Chief, PSG, recently informed the Executive Director, NPIC, that NSA was considering requesting permission from the DCI to run a direct, secure line from NSA to the NPIC computer in order to have a direct access to the Center's Target Brief File (TBF). Since then a letter, addressed to the Director, NPIC, has been received from the Director, NSA, requesting such a line. A review of this situation indicates the following:

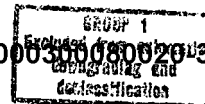
a. The entire contents of the TBF have previously been made available to NSA in either printed form or in magnetic tape. The tape has posed a problem to NSA since it was classified [] and the [] facility at NSA had no computer under its direct control.

b. At certain times NSA has had to come back to the Center for additional data acquired subsequent to the date of the tape or print-out. Currently, a print-out of the file is forwarded to NSA monthly.

c. NSA will install the circuit and communications equipment at its own expense, with installation probably being accomplished by the NSA technicians who install the gray line phones.

d. In terms of physical security, specifically emanation, the Office of Communications, which has this responsibility, is being questioned. NSA, however, is usually consulted on such matters by Commo, so the question to the Office of Communications is primarily a formality.

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e. The letter from NSA indicates that the remote terminal would be located in the compartmented NSA area. The CIA/TSO has recently raised a question regarding incorporation of the Target Brief File in the COINS system, which would permit the recipient to deduce the government's reconnaissance capability. It should be noted, however, that the COINS File which contains header information is classified TS [] while the Center's Target Brief File is TS []. Accordingly, the CIA/TSO should discuss the handling of the output from the Target Brief File directly with his opposite number at NSA to ensure and verify restricted access to this data.



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f. The Target Brief File will become the Installation Data File (IDF) of the IIS, and on-line operation of the NSA remote terminal would not begin at least until the IIS becomes operational, now scheduled for July 1970. At present, it is planned that all terminals for the IIS will be in [redacted] [redacted] It should be noted, however, that the Army SPAD unit will have such a terminal, thereby giving the Army access to the Center's file.

2. In brief, the following will be the effects if the NSA proposal is approved.

a. NSA will not be getting any information which they do not get now except that it will be on a current basis and be directed toward specific questions.

b. The access by NSA will not entail any extra work on NPIC's part, and will, in fact, relieve us of the need to provide NSA with print-outs or magnetic tapes since these will no longer be required by NSA.

c. There will be no additional costs to NPIC for the installation.

d. This will not set a precedent of outside organizations having access to our data since plans call for the Army to tap into our system through SPAD; however, other organizations such as DIA or FTD may make similar requests.

e. There do not appear to be any physical security problems with respect to the hardware involved.

3. The following actions should be undertaken:

a. Inform the DDI Planning Office of the official request now received and our reactions toward it; obtain a DDI response, and ascertain what approvals from higher authority, if any, are required.

b. Consult DDS commo and security elements to pin down any ramifications, approvals, etc. that might be required from them.

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c. Inform the CIA/TSO of the situation in order that he may look into and ensure the safeguarding of the data at the NSA end.

d. Prepare the appropriate Center response to the Director, NSA.




Chief, Planning, Programming & Budgeting Staff
NPIC

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