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22 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Release of Finished Intelligence to the Academic Community

1. The Office of Basic Intelligence has followed a very restricted policy in releasing finished intelligence to the academic community. All NIS (except the gazetteers) and almost all geographic intelligence production are classified and thus eliminated. Only in the area of map production is there an appreciable bloc of unclassified production that, at least, would be potentially available to the non-government user. To date, only very limited quantities of such unclassified maps have been given to the academic community.

2. A review of the types of finished intelligence released during the past several years follows:

a. NIS. The gazetteer portion of the NIS program is the only unclassified part. Routinely, about 450 "public edition" copies are distributed by the Government Printing Office to university, state, and private libraries. An additional 350 copies are sent by the BGN to selected geography and cartography departments throughout the academic world. All other NIS production is classified and has not been released to the public.

b. Geographic Intelligence. Two publications of special interest were made available to China and USSR scholars in the universities in 1959-60. The China: Provisional Atlas of Communist Administrative Units was distributed [redacted] to 44 universities and 11 societies. An additional 50 copies were offered for public sale through the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce. The Atlas of Soviet Administrative Maps also was distributed [redacted] to 45 universities, the American Geographical Society, New York Public Library, several news media, and two commercial map companies. Additional copies were made available to four universities [redacted] and to the National Academy of Sciences. All other geographic intelligence production has been classified and not available for release.

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GROUP 1
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c. Cartographic Production. Maps that have been released to the universities stem from two situations:

(1) Requests received by the Department of State are referred to the Map Library for action. Although casual requests usually are not honored, those that are related to specific projects such as Peace Corps training contractors or faculty research are filled, if practical. Ten or more universities have been served in this manner over the past 2 years. Base maps and special topic maps (terrain, minerals, ethnic, climatic, etc.) make up the bulk of the requests. Up to 100 copies per map have been sent to satisfy some of the requests.

(2) Associated with contacts made during recruitment trips and those encompassing an exchange of technical cartographic knowledge, there has been a limited release of maps to the Geography Departments at various universities. Again, base maps, topical maps, and mathematical projections, the latter being examples of automated techniques, make up the bulk of the items released, usually in single copy. For the most part, these have been given to those departments that feature cartographic training. Over the past several years, such finished intelligence in map form has been given to about ten universities.

3. For the immediate future, it is recommended that the present OBI policy be continued. There is only a slight chance that NIS Section 23, Weather and Climate, might be made available and, if approved by DIA, would be of marginal value. All other NIS sections and essentially all geographic intelligence production will continue to be classified and not available outside of government circles. Although there is a fairly large quantity of unclassified maps available, the Office simply does not have the manpower to expand distribution. Several informal studies have been made over the past 5-10 years of what maps could and should be distributed for research use in universities. Practical considerations have forced us each time to a negative conclusion to expand distribution. We believe the distribution of maps should be made only when significant substantive, technical, or methodological contributions are inherent in their distribution to a university department.

(signed)

JAMES A. BRAMMELL

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Director of Basic Intelligence

Distribution:

O&I - Addressee

2 - D/OBI

1 - GD/BI; ED/BI; PD/BI; CD/BI; MLD/BI (on routing)

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