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3 February 1951

MEMORANDUM TO: THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THROUGH : Assistant Director for Intelligence Coordination
FROM : Assistant Director for Research and Reports
SUBJECT : The NIS Program
REFERENCE : Special Report of the NIS Committee dated 16 January 1951.

1. There is forwarded herewith the "Special Report of the NIS Committee" pursuant to the request of the Committee that it be laid before the Director of Central Intelligence for consideration by the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

2. Reference report sets forth proposals of the NIS Committee which would involve increasing NIS production to the equivalent of 12 NIS a year for fiscal year 1952, and to the equivalent of 15 NIS a year for fiscal years 1953-1954, in order to complete and to place fully on a maintenance basis NIS on all JCS high priority areas by 30 June 1954. General estimates of the necessary departmental capabilities to meet this proposed production goal are being prepared by the members of the NIS Committee for their respective Directors of Intelligence. Since the NIS Committee's proposals would also require increased support by the CIA in funds and services, there follows a general estimate of requirements affecting this Agency.

3. The services which the CIA directly provides for the NIS Program are:

a. The Basic Intelligence Division, O/IR, which performs the over-all coordination for the NIS Program and provides facilities for review, editing, and publication of the National Intelligence Surveys.

b. The Geographic Division, O/IR, which is responsible for the preparation of the NIS maps and serves as coordinator and partial producer of Chapter II (Map and Chart Appraisal) of the NIS.

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c. The Office of Special Operations, which has the production responsibilities for Section 56 (Intelligence and Security) of the NIS.

d. The Office of Scientific Intelligence, which serves as coordinator and partial producer of Chapter VII (Scientific) of the NIS.

e. The Office of Collection and Dissemination, which prepares the original NIS Gazetteer sheets by IIM process, and is charged with the responsibility for the dissemination of the published NIS.

h. Other agencies which receive CIA fiscal support for the NIS Program are:

a. The Special Services Unit of the Government Printing Office for the printing of NIS and Gazetteers.

b. The staff of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for the development of NIS standard geographic names and for the geographic name editing of NIS material.

c. The Intelligence Agency of the Department of State for the principal production of NIS Chapter IV (Sociological), Chapter V (Political), and Chapter VI (Economic).

d. The Department of Agriculture (Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations and Forest Service) for the principal production of NIS Section 61 (Food and Agriculture).

e. The Department of the Interior (Bureau of Mines and Fish and Wildlife Service) for the partial production of NIS Section 61 (Food and Agriculture), and for the principal production of NIS Section 62 (Fuels and Power), Section 63 (Minerals and Metals), and Supplement V (Petroleum).

5. The additional support in services and funds which the CIA would be required to furnish under the proposals of the NIS Committee cannot be fully determined until the various contributing agencies have indicated their requirements. This matter will be taken in hand as soon as policy determinations have been made. In general terms, however, it is estimated that for fiscal year 1952 the CIA services would need to be increased about 30%, and the CIA fiscal support to other agencies about 40%, over present commitments. There would probably be required an additional 15% increase in both services and fiscal support by the CIA for fiscal years 1953-1954.

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6. There is a severe shortage of personnel in the Government qualified to do intelligence work. This makes it urgent that the priority to be attached to an accelerated MIS program relative to other work for which such personnel is needed be carefully considered.

7. Attention might be given to the possibility of having some parts of the Surveys done by contractual arrangements with Universities or other private research groups. Such a procedure would not remove the necessity for a priority determination however, since such private groups can also be employed on other urgent research for the Government, and constitute one of the principal remaining pools of people from which recruitment of intelligence personnel can be made.

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MAX F. WILLIAMS

Enclosure:
Special Report of the
MIS Committee

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