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66-1264

MAR 1966

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT : Establishment of a China Task Force**

1. Attached for your information is a copy of a notice which I am issuing. It announces the establishment of a China Task Force.

2. In recent weeks I have reviewed, as a matter of priority, the adequacy of the organizational and institutional arrangements for production of intelligence on China and for support of the DCI China Coordinator. In this review, I have been mindful of your discussion with members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board on 28 January, in which you informed the Board that the focal point in the Agency for production of intelligence on Communist China was the Deputy Director for Intelligence.

3. In order to provide the strongest possible mechanism for discharging the Agency's responsibilities for production of intelligence on China, I am establishing a China Task Force. This Task Force is to be headed by a thoroughly qualified and seasoned senior substantive officer who is one of our foremost specialists on China. This officer [redacted] will report directly to me. The Task Force Chief will meet regularly with representatives of all production components to monitor and assess China production programs and to make recommendations to me where appropriate. He will also review the adequacy of collection guidance on China and will, on my behalf, monitor the Agency's relations with the China centers in the universities and with our academic consultants. (The latter account will be under the direct supervision of a full-time area expert who will be appointed shortly.) The Task Force Chief will also be responsible for providing the most effective possible support to the DCI China Coordinator.

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4. Our purpose, therefore, is to devise simple and efficient procedures for making certain that all Agency resources for production of intelligence on China are used with maximum effectiveness and to make very clear that production of intelligence on China is a task of greatest importance and urgency. We are manifesting our support for this effort by charging our most experienced China specialists with the task. In order to work at maximum efficiency and avoid confusion, the actual production of intelligence on China will continue to be carried out in the line organizations. The Chief of the China Task Force and his group of area specialists will not supersede the chain of command.

5. A more drastic alternative, the concentration of all China specialists in one major line organization, would cause undesirable dislocation since it would require complete reorganization of the production components on a geographical basis. It would not in itself produce better intelligence, might involve wasteful duplication of resources, and would create serious disruption in the very area we are trying to develop.

6. I believe that with the implementation of the arrangements outlined above, the Agency will be in a very strong position to meet the demands presented by China's status as an intelligence target of top priority.

/s/ R. J. Smith

**R. J. SMITH**  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment

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O/DDI [ ] fbr (21 March 1966)

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