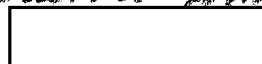


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Returned from



5 Oct 55

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31 January 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR: 

SUBJECT : Your Request for Analysis of Sources of Intelligence Items

1. I attach hereto two tables giving percentage breakdowns of the sources on which the 1954 production of finished intelligence by my offices has been based.

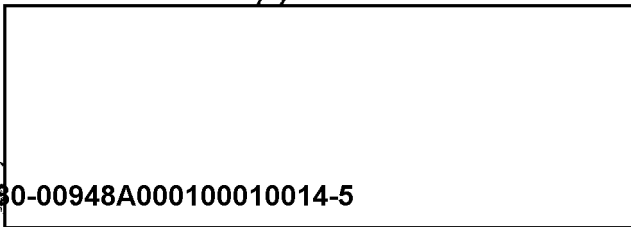
2. The first table gives all offices engaged in published intelligence research, and the second gives a further breakdown with respect to the Office of Current Intelligence. The reason for this is that only the latter is broken down essentially by geographic subdivisions, whereas the other offices, as you well know, are functionally subdivided. I hope that this OCI analysis will be adequate for the purposes of enabling you to evaluate the relative contribution of different sources to intelligence on each of the major areas of the world.

3. You should note that the first table is based on the total of primary intelligence sources used. Thus, citations to other finished intelligence are excluded, as are references to unclassified authorities and literature. The first seems justified because it is safe to presume that the cited finished intelligence in turn depends on approximately the same proportion of various primary sources, as do the 1954 reports I have had analyzed. Exclusion of non-intelligence items is justified because in large measure they are cited as historical background or as substantiating the logic of the analysis or to provide the reader with guidance for general background reading on the topic.

4. Finally, I hope you will keep in mind the serious dangers of being misled by such statistics. For example, one-line items are given the same weight as a document or dispatch many pages in length. Moreover, qualitatively such a table ignores the fact that a reliable report that a cabinet may be about to fall may outweigh a hundred items of limited significance. The structure of our knowledge depends on all the information we get, and its strength depends particularly on a relatively few highly reliable reports that give veracity to a whole mass of basic

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ER 6-5936

data and focus attention on the portions thereof that are relevant to policy making. Thus, one clandestine-service-obtained leak from a highly placed government official may be the all-important item that confirms dozens of otherwise inconclusive indications and enables the rejection of an equal number of otherwise plausible bits of evidence.

5. If I can be of any further use to you in this or any other matter pertaining to this review of our work, please let me know.

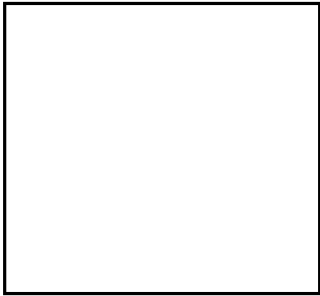


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ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

Enclosures

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