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29 November 1968

COINS LOG

A meeting of the COINS Committee was held at NSA at 1000 on Wednesday 27 November 1968. The meeting was devoted exclusively to a page by page review, additions and changes to the revised COINS Master Plan. [] was there for part of the meeting. I left at 1330 as they were about to start part IV (Resources).

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The plan was not reduced in size (one of the main CIA objections) and still runs over 70 pages, but most of the suggested CIA and DIA changes, whether they were substantive, corrective, or only editorial, were adopted. In one important place, however, there was a deadlock -- still unresolved as far as I know. CIA considered objectives # 3, 4, and 5 on pages 5 - 6 far too long-range and broad to be serious goals for the short period of the COINS experiment, and wanted all three dropped. [] objected and after much discussion the possibility of publishing as is, with a CIA footnote, was considered. [] presented as an alternative the possibility of using the objectives presented in the COINS Implementation Agreement of May 1966 (which are just as broad as those in the draft Master Plan). To the rejoinder that the 1966 paper was not coordinated inside most of the agencies, and had never been approved in toto by either CODIB, USIB, or agency management, George replied that it was signed by the agency representative on the committee, and as such should represent their agency's approval -- if they sign, they sign for the whole agency. George also tried to extend the 8 September 1966

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"go-ahead" approval to establish a COINS network as an implicit approval of COINS security aspects (p. 15). No one agreed with this, so it was scratched.

Of interest to IHC is an addition [redacted] made for DIA, which was approved by the COINS Committee. To the sentence, "addition, removal or modification of files so designated [as primary files] can be made only with the approval of the IHC Chairman" was added, "unless the changes are necessitated by actions beyond the control of the sponsoring agency". (p. 23).

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In the discussion concerning this [redacted] of NSA told me that the memorandum of agreement between NSA and DIA to get

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[redacted]

File -- both are primary files -- was still kicking around. The agencies agreed on NSA's contribution to the Soviet portion of the file, but not the Chinese one.

Two additional items of interest. DIA had deleted from "tasks" all mention of the extension of COINS to the ^{of} U.S. commands. They still plan to bring them into the IDHS commo system, but they don't know yet about COINS. There has also been some slippage already in their link-up -- LANTCOM to the summer of 69; PACOM July to September 69; EUVCOM September 69 to July 70, SAC September to October 69, CONAD September to October 69, STRICOM September 69 to July 70, ALCOM April 70 to July, SOUTHCOM July 70 to ? and the Commander of the Western Sea Frontier (Treasure Island) has been added to the list for October 1969.

The second item concerned the [redacted]

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the subject of much rumor around here. Page 34 (Summary of Resources) called for a CIA explanation of same -- the attached one page memo was distributed to the committee by CIA as their explanation (sort of)/ substitute for page 34.



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Page 34 : CIA

The increase in COINS expenditure and personnel planned by CIA for 1970 is based upon the need for a systematic study of the requirement for a Community on-line information storage and retrieval system and a cost-benefit analysis of major feasible alternatives for providing such a system. Inauguration of a project to undertake such a study (a) recognizes the fact that no such study has been undertaken by the community, (b) assumes that such a system may be increasingly feasible by FY 1971-72 given recent development in the state-of-the-art, (c) assumes that the results of the COINS experiment would be available for review, and (d) provides the resources and manpower necessary to conduct a minimum effort to develop the data necessary for conceptual design of such a system with the prospect for the development of a considerable part of the system specifications.

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