

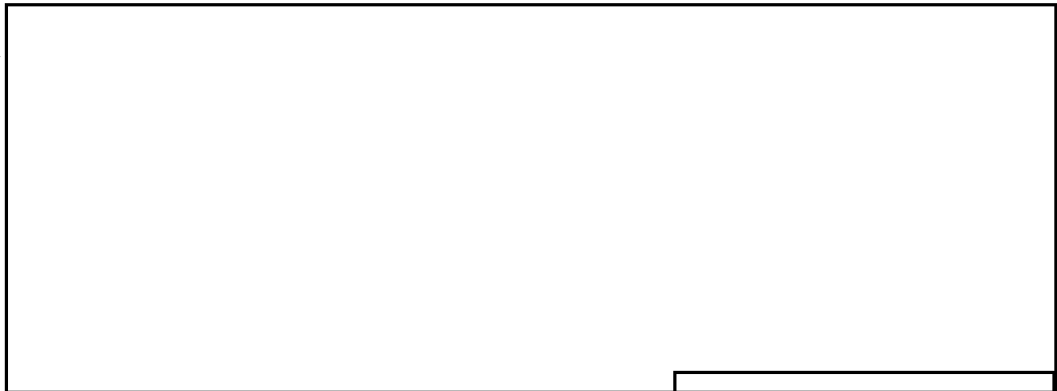
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COINS EVALUATION PANEL

Minutes of Meeting of 6 February 1968

1330-1600 hours, Ames Center Building, Rosslyn

Present



1. Tasks and modus operandi of the panel.

[redacted] opened the first meeting of the newly constituted panel and briefly discussed the panel's charter. The members had no questions that would seem to require clarification of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to the panel. A lively discussion ensued, however, when [redacted] raised a question as to what was expected of the panel in the way of value estimates and cost figures. It was pointed out that the panel's charter requires it to develop a plan for gathering, analyzing and presenting data of certain kinds that presumably others will use in deciding questions as to the potential value of the system; and that the PFIAB had directed the establishment of COINS as an experimental system without regard to economic justification. It is expected that the plan developed by the panel will provide for the gathering of data that will contain clues as to value. As for the modus operandi of the panel, [redacted] indicated that it may be advisable to divide the panel into smaller groups to work on the various parts of the evaluation plan. Consideration will be given to the use of outside assistance (e.g., behavioral scientists), should the need arise.

[redacted] stated that DIA had recently completed evaluation of its on-line system and that he would provide the panel with copies of the report. This information led to a discussion of whether the panel should consider intraagency aspects of COINS or should confine its efforts to interagency use and

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performance of the system. The view was expressed that both aspects need to be considered particularly if we think it important to be able to compare interagency with intraagency use of the files. The panel will be concerned primarily, however, with data on COINS as a means of interagency communication.

STAT 2. Considerations involved in selecting period(s) of time for data gathering. [] explained that this item had been included on the agenda in order to provide for general discussion of the pros and cons of selecting different time periods for data gathering before getting down to specifics on the plan to be developed. There was relatively little discussion of this topic. It will be dealt with as the components of the plan are developed.

STAT 3. COINS system logs as data sources. Copies of the lists of data elements to be included in the CIA, NSA, and NPIC system logs were distributed for the panel's information. [] explained the use of the switch log and distributed samples of some of the printouts that can be obtained. Questions were raised but not answered at this time as to the uses that might be made of the log data and also the need for compatibility, or convertibility, of log formats. [] stated that we must first determine what questions are to be answered before we consider whether the logs will contain the data required and whether they can be used to advantage. There was some discussion of the difficulty of "massaging" data from the logs, particularly when the entries on any particular interagency interrogation and its response will be scattered over a period of time in several different logs.

STAT 4. Next steps in developing components of the plan. A draft plan prepared some months ago by [] had been distributed to the panel, but there was not sufficient time to discuss it in detail. It was agreed that all panel members would review it and be prepared to discuss it as the first item on the agenda of the next meeting. In addition, [] suggested that a small group of panel members give some thought before the next meeting to the possibility of gathering a minimal amount of information from the users of COINS on each instance of use. [] volunteered to work with her on this topic.

5. Other data acquisition and analysis that may be necessary or desirable in connection with system evaluation (task 3 of the panel's charter). Time did not permit discussion of this agenda item. It will be considered as the panel continues its work.

6. The next meeting, it was decided, will be held at 1330 on 21 February 1968 at the Ames Center Building, Rosslyn.