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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

5 Oct 66

SUBJECT: Minutes of the COINS Meeting 21 September 1966

1. The COINS Meeting was held at NSA 21 September 1966 at 1000 hours.

2. The following individuals were present:

a. Executive Members:

[Redacted]

NSA
DIA
CIA
NPIC
STATE

[Redacted]

Mr. Lawrence Slaughter

b. Member Absent:

[Redacted]

NSA

[Redacted]

c. Observers:

[Redacted]

NSA
NSA
DIA
CIA
NSA
DIA
DIA

[Redacted]

3. [Redacted] DIA, indicated that National Indications Center (NIC) has informally requested a remote terminal in the COINS Experiment. He is now in the process of submitting a formal request through channels.

[Redacted]

5. Training.

a. [Redacted] DIA, and Mr. Slaughter, STATE, are in agreement that three slots are available to State Department personnel in the DIA ISIC query language course. Other members expressed an interest in sending personnel to this course. Necessary arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

b. A discussion took place with respect to the kinds of training that will be required in the COINS Experiment.

(1) User Language

(a) For data processing personnel who are to write translation programs

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GROUP-3

Downgraded at 12 year intervals, not automatically declassified

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interrogate the files.

(2) Files - User-oriented briefings on content and currency (i.e., date level of information) of files including discussion of available specific or "canned" interrogations.

25X1 c. [] DIA, was invited to submit a paper at the next meeting with regard to training requirements for the COINS Experiment.

6. Source Information

a. There was some discussion as to the need for source information with respect to each record in the file and each data element within a record.

b. The following points were agreed upon:

(1) At this point it would be extremely difficult to include source information for every element in every record.

(2) Sources of information are frequently sensitive, or more highly classified than the actual information itself.

(3) Some files in the COINS Experiment already contain Basic (i.e., source) information. Therefore, in the COINS Experiment there will be no attempt to require that this information be included in every record or for every data element.

(4) The subject of Source Information will be treated on a file by file basis.

(5) If a user needs to know the source and validity of any information, he will be required to contact the file sponsor.

7. Classification. Discussions were also held with respect to the subject of classification. It was generally agreed that:

a. Each file would be classified according to the highest classification of material in the file, and

b. No attempt will be made to classify each record or data element in the file unless the responsible Agency desires to take such action.

8. Date-of-Entry/Update. There was discussion relative to the need for a date in each record to give the user some appreciation for the date level of the information extracted. There seemed to be a consensus of opinion that such a date should be included at the time a record is entered and changed each time any element of information in the record is updated.

9. Status Report

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(1) General - The letter which will permit CIA and NPIC to participate in COINS has not been signed.

(2) Software - The necessary software including a single users language is almost complete and interrogations of the data base have been simulated using [redacted] (i.e., remote terminals).

(3) Communications

(a) Specifications for two pieces of interface hardware have been completed:

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c. STATE (Mr. Lawrence Slaughter)

(1) The funding necessary for participation in the COINS Experiment has been approved.

(2) The communications people have been alerted and are ready to participate when required.

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(3) There is concern about the problem of training analysts to use the ISIC system. State hopes to take advantage of training at DIA when the next course is offered.

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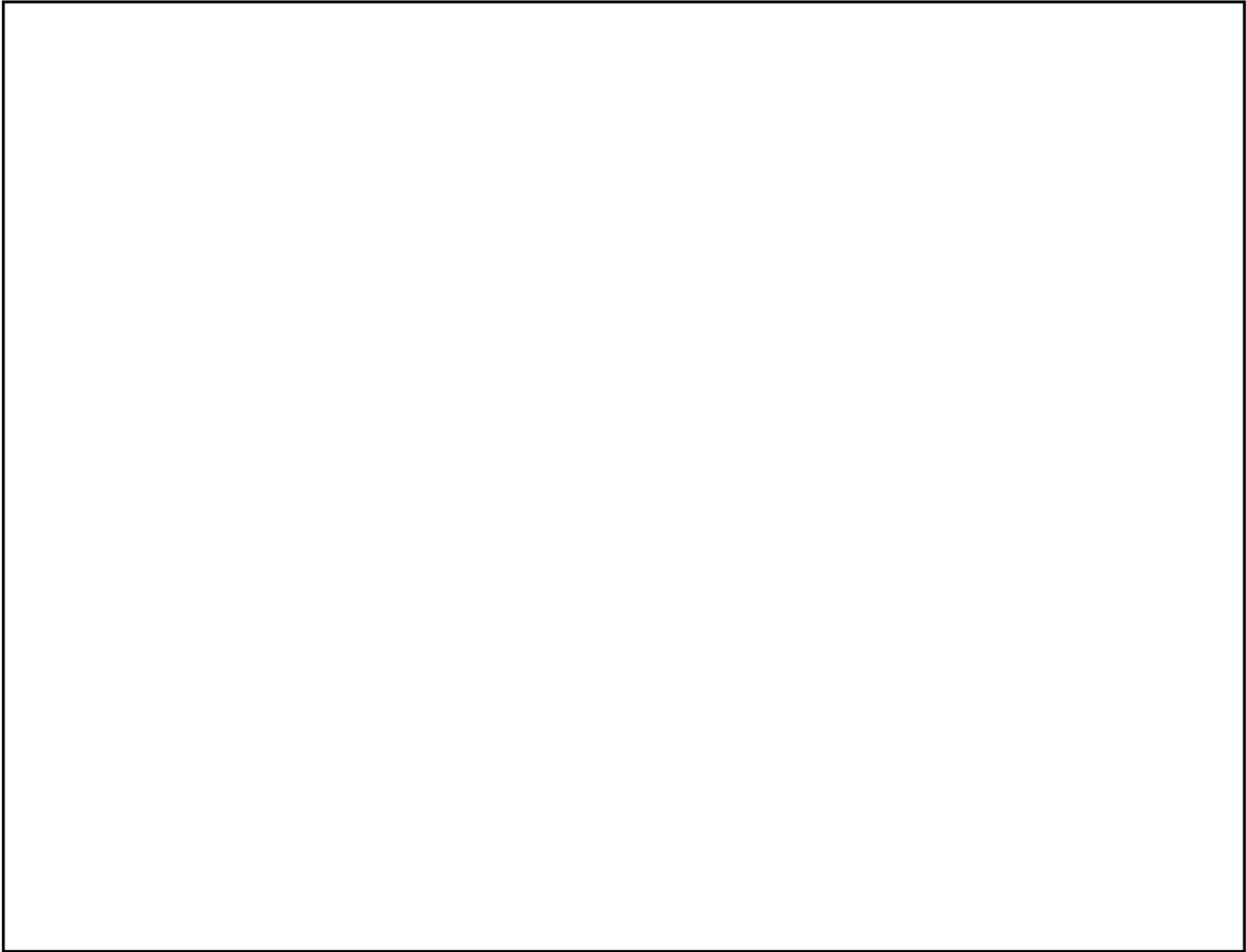
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e. DIA 

(1) Software

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10. The possibility of setting up a Radar Order of Battle Field Panel was discussed. Members were asked to see if this was agreeable with each of their organizations.

11. The primary subject for the next COINS meeting at 1000, 5 October 1966 will be the Evaluation of the COINS Experiment.



Chairman, COINS Committee

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