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USIB-D-39.7/18  
8 September 1966

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Progress Report on Implementation of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Recommendation No. 2 of 15 June 1965

REFERENCES : a. Mr. Clifford's Memorandum of 15 June 1965 for the President  
b. Mr. Bundy's Memorandum of 15 July 1965 for the Director of Central Intelligence  
c. USIB-D-39.7/11, 24 September 1965  
d. USIB-M-405, 7 October 1965, Secretary's Note 2

1. The attached report from the Chairman of the Committee on Documentation (CODIB) is submitted for USIB consideration of the CODIB recommendations in paragraph 5, page 6. The attachment reports on the progress to date toward implementing the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) Recommendation No. 2 (reference a.) regarding expansion of the NSA Technical Information Processing System (TIPS) to include an intelligence community experiment in interagency information handling. The previous progress report covering this subject was approved by USIB (reference d.) and is contained in the attachment to reference c.

2. The subject report is based on accomplishments to date of the CODIB Working Group especially established to address the problems of conducting the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) experiment. The overall conclusion is that the COINS experiment is progressing satisfactorily through planning and the early stages of implementation, that it appears now that the COINS network of computer systems and communications linkages can be achieved early in 1967, and that substantive portions of the experiment can be initiated by that time.

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downgrading and  
declassification

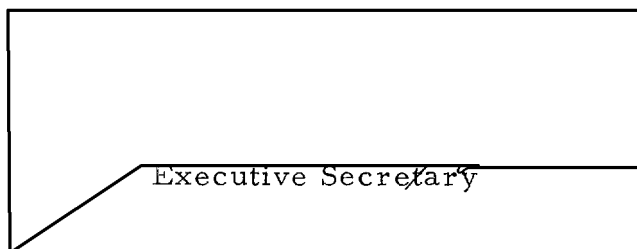
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USIB Action Requested

3. Board members are requested to advise the Secretariat no later than close of business 16 September 1966 of their concurrence in or other views on the CODIB recommendations in paragraph 5, page 6 of the attached report.

  
Executive Secretary

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Attachments

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CODIB-D-113/4.4  
1 September 1966

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Implementation of the President's  
Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Recommendation  
No. 2 of 15 June 1965

REFERENCES: a. Mr. Clifford's Memorandum of 15 June 1965 for  
the President  
b. Mr. Bundy's Memorandum of 15 July 1965 for the  
Director of Central Intelligence  
c. Director of Central Intelligence Memorandum of  
2 October 1965 for the Special Assistant to the  
President, National Security Affairs, and the  
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence Ad-  
visory Board (USIB-D-39.7/11, 24 September 1965)

1. Background. This is a report of progress made toward implementing the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) Recommendation No. 2, regarding expansion of the National Security Agency's Technical Information Processing System (TIPS) to include a community experiment in interagency information handling. The report is based on accomplishments to date of the CODIB Working Group especially established to address the problems of conducting the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) experiment.

2. Program Status.

a. Overall

(1) The COINS experiment is progressing satisfactorily through planning and the early stages of implementation. The CODIB Working Group on COINS is performing effectively in developing the

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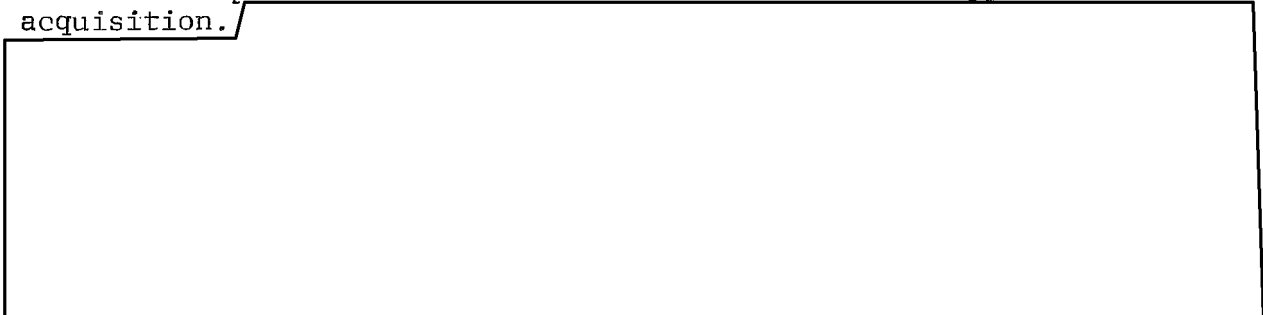
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overall framework for the experiment, and in coordinating the efforts of several sub-groups concerned with specific segments of the experiment such as communications linkages and procedures, selection of data files, and system evaluation planning. Major problems remain to be solved in the areas of data files and COINS evaluation planning. It appears now that the COINS network of computer systems and communications linkages can be achieved early in 1967, and that substantive portions of the experiment can be initiated by that time.

(2) The COINS Working Group has drafted an implementation plan describing the details of the initial phases of the COINS experiment (a schematic diagram of the COINS network is attached). The drafting of the system evaluation, management, and resources portions of the implementation plan is underway.

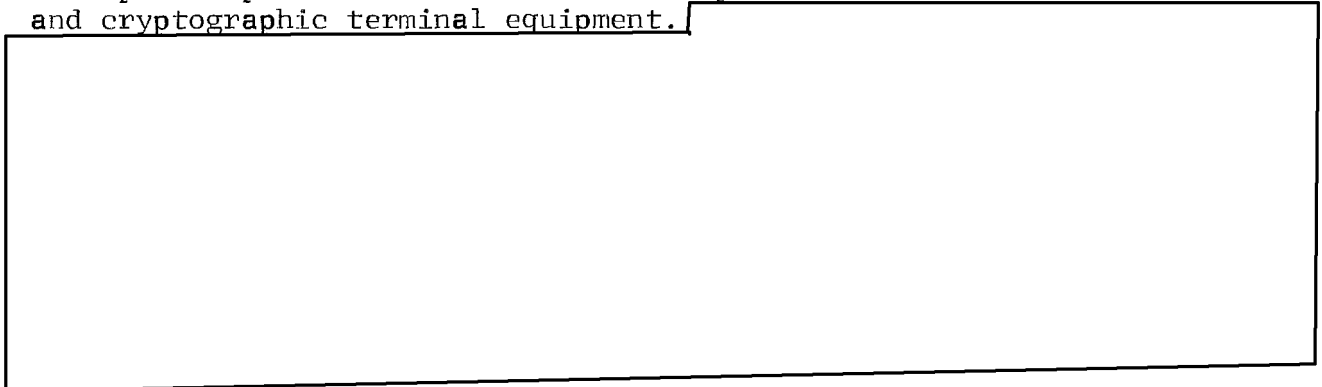
b. Hardware

(1) Computer Hardware. The computer equipment for the COINS experiment is either installed or has been approved for acquisition.



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(2) Communications and Cryptographic Equipment. Each participant in COINS will have to provide its own communications and cryptographic terminal equipment.



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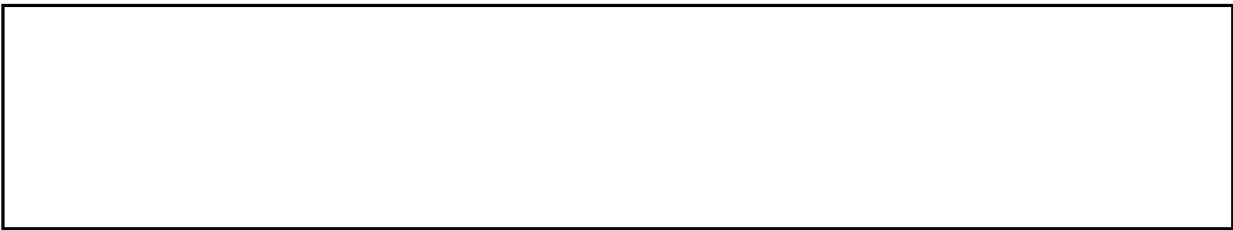
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c. Software

The major portion of the computer software required for the COINS experiment still has to be produced. Many of the basic agreements and identifications of specific software items to be produced have already been made. For example, NSA and NPIC have already agreed on similar interrogation procedures and formats; DIA and State will use the NSA/NPIC interrogation language and format thus making it unnecessary for DIA to write a translate program.

d. Data Files

(1) NSA has made the following files available for the COINS experiment:



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(2) NPIC has nominated its Target Brief File (a restricted sub-set of the total file) for use in COINS.

(3) CIA has nominated the following files for the COINS experiment:



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(4) DIA is making available the following files:



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e. Evaluation

The COINS Working Group has developed preliminary plans

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for a technical evaluation of the COINS experiment. These plans are aimed primarily at insuring that capabilities exist at the commencement of the experiment to collect the information that will be required for evaluation. These capabilities include computer programs by which each agency's computer system would maintain system logs showing the COINS load and activity within the agency. A separate program on the COINS communications switch computer would maintain continuous logs on the characteristics of traffic in the network including total number of messages sent per day, number of messages in each message category, number of messages per agency, time peak loads, and message queue lengths. (See paragraph 3 for further discussion).

f. Resources

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3. Major Problem Areas.

a. Intelligence Data Files

(1) The selection of intelligence data files for the COINS experiment persists as a most difficult problem. The

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real difficulty is in selecting files which are readily available in machineable form and which, at the same time, have high utility to the analysts who will participate in the operational feasibility portions of the experiment. There is a shortage of files which satisfy both the availability and utility criteria. For example, in the biographic area recommended by the PFIAB, the majority of biographic files are not in machineable form. In order to get some of the best biographic materials into COINS, machineable files would have to be developed at considerable cost in time and manpower.

(2) CODIB is acutely aware of the impact of this problem on COINS and is trying to find ways to insure that only high-value files are used in the experiment. Among the actions pending is an effort to have substantive analysts in each agency identify and describe what they consider to be useful files. From this point, attempts can be made to have the appropriate files made available for COINS use.

b. System Evaluation

(1) As in any experiment, evaluation is a crucial part of the COINS effort. The nature of COINS makes a dual type of evaluation mandatory. A technical evaluation must be conducted to determine whether the network and its individual hardware/software components have met technical specifications, security criteria, and accuracy requirements. An operational evaluation must be performed to determine whether the system is useful to the analyst and, if so, to what extent. The operational evaluation will be influenced by system technical performance as well as the utility of the information handled within the system.

(2) Both the technical and operational evaluations require the prior establishment of firm performance objectives and specifications to be used as the base against which to measure actual system performance. CODIB has commenced preparation of a list of COINS objectives together with an itemized break-out of both technical and operational performance specifications. Work is also being done on the development of evaluation techniques including the design of automatic methods of collecting performance data at each of the computer systems and the communications switch of the COINS network.

c. Management Implications

Because COINS is the first community exercise in inter-agency automated information handling and interchange, there are no

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available precedents on how to manage the COINS network. The Working Group on COINS is currently fulfilling technical system management. There is, however, a need for a more formal management structure, one that is empowered to exercise broader authority over the entire network and its impact on the overall functions of the community. CODIB is considering alternative means of providing this necessary management.

d. Resources Implications

Estimates made to date of the cost of implementing the first phase of COINS are necessarily gross and tentative. More detailed information on total system resource requirements is needed. CODIB has accordingly tasked the Working Group with developing a more comprehensive resources plan for the entire COINS experiment.

4. Activity Forecasts.

Following are the COINS tasks to be pursued during the next reporting period:

(a) Participants will proceed with the reconfiguration of hardware, the acquisition and installation of computer, communications and cryptographic equipment where appropriate, and the preparation of required items of COINS software.

(b) CODIB will continue its efforts to determine the criteria for selecting useful files for COINS and to identify and establish the availability of data files satisfying these criteria.

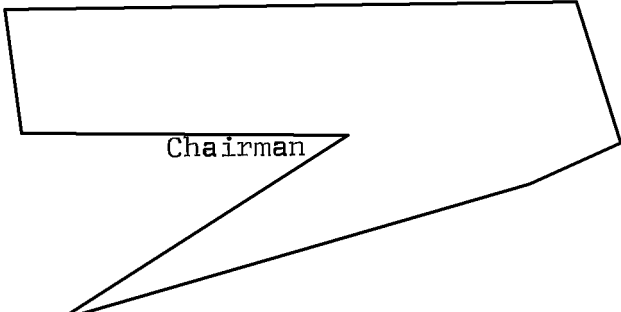
(c) CODIB, with support from the Working Group and participants in the COINS experiment, will expedite the preparation of COINS technical and operational objectives and specifications, and the drafting of a system evaluation plan.

(d) The COINS Working Group will prepare resources and management plans for the entire COINS experiment.

5. USIB Action.

The Committee on Documentation recommends that USIB note the above report of progress made in conducting the COINS experiment and approve the continuation of the effort to establish the COINS network as outlined herein.

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Chairman

Attachment:  
Diagram of COINS Network



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