

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

CODIB-D-84/1  
1 June 1961

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: The United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Curtailment of CIA Support to Library of  
Congress Indexes

1. The attached CIA plan for cutting back its support of the Library of Congress Monthly Index of Russian Accessions (MIRA) and East European Accessions Index (EEAI) was reviewed by the USIB Committee on Documentation on 1 June. CODIB has agreed on the findings and interposed no objection to the recommendations.
2. This paper is forwarded to the USIB for information.
3. Barring having a USIB member raise a question concerning the proposed action, CIA will begin implementation. The Librarian of Congress has been so informed.

  
Paul A. Boral  
Chairman

Attachment

25X

D-84/1

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

CODIB-D-84/1  
1 June 1961UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATIONCurtailment of CIA Support to  
Library of Congress Accessions Indexes

1. The Library of Congress Monthly Index of Russian Accessions (MIRA), issued since 1948, is a comprehensive record of post-World War II Soviet publications in all fields of knowledge received by the Library of Congress and some 200 other major libraries of the U.S. The East European Accessions Index (EEAI), published by the Library of Congress since 1952, lists post-World War II receipts by it and over 100 major libraries of the U.S. from East European countries.
2. CIA took over the sole financial support of the MIRA in 1952 because of the importance to intelligence of maintaining this publication at the time. One of the by-products of the support was the biographic cards which form a basic part of the Biographic Register files in CIA, identifying authors of articles as to place and type of research. CIA began support of the EEA I in Fiscal Year 1959. Although some financial support also was provided for the preparation of the Indexes in Fiscal Years 1960 and 1961 by NSF, AEC, and NASA, CIA no longer can justify major support under present conditions.

CODIB-D-84/1

1 June 1961

3. The purpose of this paper is to alert the intelligence community to proposed curtailment action by CIA, and to furnish background information that may be useful in determining a course for future action.

4. The cost to CIA for the first year of support to the MIRA (1960) was \$87,845, increasing to \$402,100 in FY 61; additionally \$15,000 from NSF, \$10,000 from AEC, and \$25,000 from NASA was required in FY 61 to support the project.

5. Costs for CIA support to the EEAI were \$254,154 in FY 59, rising to \$282,600 for FY 61, plus \$51,000 from the National Science Foundation.

6. Comments on the utility and essentiality of both publications to the work of CODIB members were requested. In summary, MIRA is considered valuable by Army (willing to consider some funding), Navy, NSA, and parts of Air Force and CIA. There is strong preference for a continuation of a modified MIRA over EEAI. With regard to the EEAI, Air Force, Army, Navy, NSA and CIA have marginal interest in its continuation. The State Department would not be hurt were both publications discontinued. DOD, FBI and JCS are not primary users of the publications. The National Science Foundation sponsored a survey of the use made of the two indexes by 120 organizations within a 300 mile radius of Washington

CODIB-D-84/1  
1 June 1961

which buttressed their original decision not to support EEAI, and has caused them to reconsider support of MIRA.

7. Intelligence needs for the two Indexes have changed. As the primary users have become more sophisticated, they have depended to an increasing extent on original source material. There is some library demand for continuation of the EEAI, but research use is negligible. The MIRA should be adapted to meet changing requirements. For example, the biographic cards have grown in importance from a by-product of the publications to the most valuable part of the projects for CIA and it plans to continue support of this aspect.

8. Two basic points should be considered before a decision is reached regarding the future of the two Indexes:

If the two publications were to cease entirely, a) what would be the effect on the academic community in general and contractors specifically, and b) what would the agencies now relying on the Indexes be required to spend for the issuance of their own accessions lists. We suspect that demand for such lists would probably come from the very researchers who are now apathetic with regard to the continuation of the Library of Congress publications. Alternatives to these Indexes would be less professionally competent, and far less comprehensive.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

CODIB-D-84/1

1 June 1961

9 In view of our findings and our prospective requirements, CIA plans the following action affecting MIRA and EEAI:

- a. To phase out the EEAI as rapidly as it is reasonable for the Library of Congress to do so.
- b. Maintain the support of MIRA for FY 62 in order to enable the National Science Foundation to define the requirements of the American scientific community for bibliographic services on Soviet scientific publications, and to permit the Library of Congress to adjust to a possible change in the present publication.
- c. Continue CIA support to the Library of Congress for the preparation of the biographic cards on the Sino-Soviet Bloc. We will also examine the feasibility of cooperation with other intelligence agencies on this project, particularly in view of Air Force requirements for bibliographic information now met by LC's Air Information Division.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L