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229-74

28 February 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Trends in the Volume of Information
Calendar Year 1973

1. This memorandum, for your information, summarizes the classified document flow into the Agency during Calendar Year 1973. The volume includes receipts into the Cable Secretariat and CRS.

2. The general trends noted in last year's report continued--increased utilization of electricals to replace paper copies and decreases in document receipts from all sources extending for the fourth straight year the pattern away from the constant heavy increases that occurred during most of the 1960s. Many producing organizations also limited copies or combined publications. This may be an indication of the paper shortage, a change in traditional reporting procedures or a combination of both.

3. Attachment A depicts the general trends in document receipts for CY 1968-CY 1973. The slight increase in non-codeword cable traffic handled by the Cable Secretariat has little impact on the DDI intelligence analyst. Cable Secretariat figures include both outgoing and incoming cables of CIA, State, and DoD with a large unknown factor for administrative, fiscal and operational messages that have no bearing on intelligence analysis or research. The codeword receipts are also deceiving--a large decrease (shown by the dotted line) occurred in April 1972 when NSA eliminated their hard copy follow-up (HCF) paper copies edition of their Headquarters-produced electricals. This decrease is partially offset by the reporting of 54,000 OAKs as individual items rather than OAK supplement compilations. In May 1972 CRS began to disseminate OAK supplements on a subject basis using Machine Assisted Dissemination (MAD) and each item within the OAK supplement

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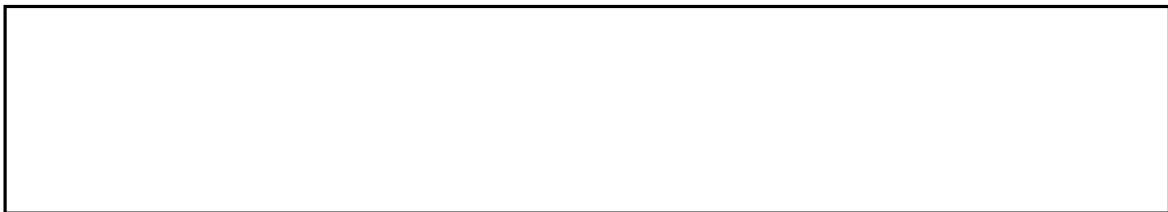
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was counted as a dissemination unit. This type of dissemination while improving the utility of the OAK is not a reflection of any increased information flow.

4. Attachment B is a comparative chart by source of CRS's document receipts for CY 1972 and CY 1973. Major increases (percentage wise but minor in numbers) occurred in Top Secret collateral and TKH cables. Priority preliminary read-out messages have accounted for some of this TKH cable increase. As further illustration of the switch to electricals over paper, TDFIRs (electricals) increased 16% in 1973 over 1972, while the traditional FIRs (paper copies) decreased 17% over the same period.

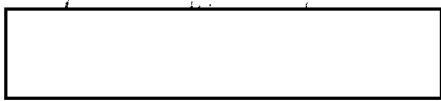
5. Other significant developments were:

a. The Department of Defense now sends about 22% of their information reports electrically. These approximate about 1,200 a month or 14,000 a year. The electrical IRs are separated from the cable traffic and are processed by CRS using the MAD rather than the traditional manual methods employed by the Cable Secretariat. The remaining DOD IRs continue to be received in paper copies.



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6. These figures continue to dispel the popularly held "information explosion" theory used by many to push exotic and automated Community information handling systems.



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Director, Central Reference Service

Atts: A/S

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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