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24 March 1972

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: National Narcotics Intelligence Center

- 1. Attached is a copy of the concept paper that OMB prepared for Bud Krogh on a National Narcotics Intelligence System (NNIS).
- 2. In giving it to me Walter Minnick of Krogh's staff explained that this paper has not been circulated beyond a few officers in the White House. He is concerned lest it fall into the hands of Customs or BNDD because they would vigorously oppose NNIS. He asked that I pass it to you personally and maintain a tight holddown on it.
- 3. Krogh plans to seek NSC staff approval later next week and will ask John Ehrlichman to speak to you about it thereafter. Krogh sees your support as vital because he believes NNIS will not work right unless it is staffed in many of the key posts by CIA officers.
- 4. I have given the paper a quick study and conclude:
  - a. The paper implies that Ambrose will get a charter broader than he has now but does not show the changes to come.
  - b. The paper describes a 71-man unit but does not show the bureaucratic framework in which it will fit; hence it is difficult to critique its practicability.
  - c. The NNIS is cast to support Ambrose whose missions are primarily centered on domestic enforcement, but the functions listed reflect a weight toward foreign intelligence which seems out of balance with Ambrose's mission.

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- d. The paper calls for establishment of a USIB Narcotics Committee chaired by Director of NNIS, but neglects to establish an Intelligence Committee for domestic intelligence.
- The paper does not specify the relationship of the NNIS with the existing CCINC structure, particularly its Intelligence Subcommittee.
- The concept, which needs more clarity and precision, probably will be revised before implementation. We hope so. For example, no two officers, however acrobatic, can maintain an effective watch and command/control over worldwide activities (including all domestic narcotics activities) during an eight hour watch.
- Minnick has asked for my personal views by Tuesday or Wednesday next, and I would appreciate your guidance.

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