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Washington, D.C. 20505

10 DEC 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Peter G. Bourne
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT: The President's Message on Drug Abuse

This Memorandum is being submitted as a classified addendum to the Central Intelligence Agency's unclassified memorandum response to the President's 2 August 1977 Message on Drug Abuse. It is our understanding, based on discussions with your Deputy, Mr. Lee Dogoloff, that these comments may be useful in future classified briefings of the President concerning actions taken by the intelligence community with regard to the narcotics intelligence effort.

The directive contained in the President's message to Congress which pertains directly to the CIA concerns the priority being given to narcotics intelligence collection. In responding to this priority task, we have identified three of the more important problem areas affecting the narcotics intelligence collection effort and described the progress that has been made in resolving these problems.

Issues and Problems

The current Narcotics Intelligence Review being conducted by the Office of Drug Abuse Policy has surfaced several key issues and problems involving the collection, coordination, analysis and dissemination of narcotics intelligence information. Three of these issues involve the CIA directly:

a. There is a need to establish structures and procedures to ensure systematic interagency coordination of foreign narcotics intelligence activities.

b. There is a need to develop a reliable system for forecasting worldwide licit and illicit opium poppy cultivation.

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c. There is a need to ensure that narcotics intelligence information collected by foreign intelligence agencies overseas is exploited to the maximum degree possible while protecting the sensitive sources and methods used in the collection process.

Progress

a. The Narcotics Working Group, a subcommittee of the Critical Collection Problems Committee which operates under a CIA chairman, is the interagency mechanism for the coordination of narcotics intelligence activities. The fact that there are no major coordination problems evident at this time reflects favorably on the relationships that exist between the Federal agencies and departments involved in the collection of foreign narcotics intelligence information. Another positive step is being taken by CIA and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which currently are in the process of approving a joint statement of operational guidelines concerning foreign narcotics information collection activities. These guidelines are designed to explain the different roles and responsibilities of each agency and to strengthen the degree of operational cooperation and coordination against the common narcotics target.

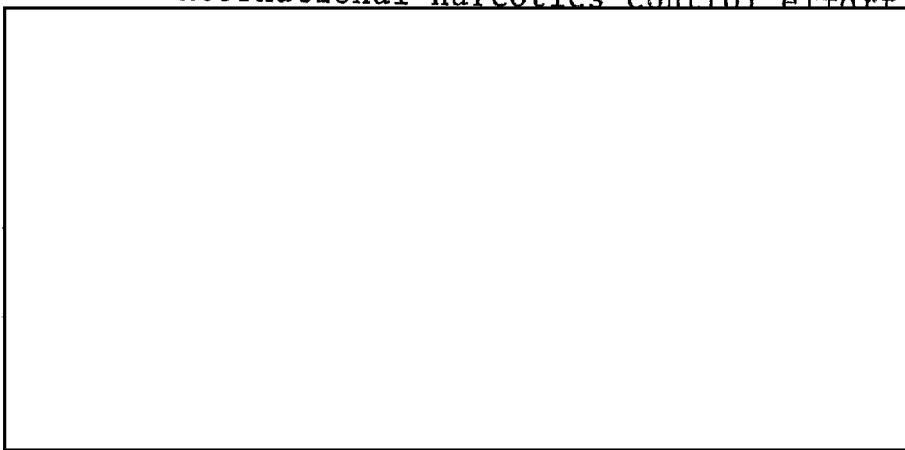
b. Based on a recommendation of the Interagency Crop Detection Review Committee, CIA agreed to take on the managerial responsibility for setting up a multidisciplinary team charged with developing a system for forecasting worldwide licit and illicit opium poppy cultivation to support the overall Federal narcotics control strategy. The team, using all available information sources, was asked to conduct a feasibility


succeeds, a similar approach will be used in other areas of the world where opium poppies are grown. An agreement has been reached with ODAP and the Office of Management and Budget whereby funds will be transferred

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from the Department of State to CIA in Fiscal Year 1978 in order to begin the feasibility study. A team leader has been selected and he started work on the study on a full-time basis on 28 November 1977.

c. The need to ensure maximum exploitation of foreign narcotics information collected by foreign intelligence agencies creates a serious problem for the intelligence community since the primary users of tactical information are law enforcement agencies. CIA, which is required to protect its sensitive sources and methods, collects excellent tactical information, usually as a by-product of operations designed to obtain strategic information. The tactical intelligence information is essential to the international narcotics program but, at the same time, raises a fundamental problem to be resolved: namely, to what extent can (or should) foreign intelligence agencies such as the CIA be involved in the international narcotics control effort



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STANSFIELD TURNER

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