

16 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Cushman

SUBJECT: Proposal to Update Moscow Observer's Guide

1. [redacted] as Chairman of the Strategic Warning Working Group, recommends that you direct the National Indications Center to revise and update the Moscow Observer's Guide (MOG) and prepare similar guides for other East European capitals where this seems advisable.

2. Background

The MOG was prepared as a result of a recommendation in a Warning Systems Survey conducted in March 1961. At that time the USIB approved the Survey's recommendation that the MOG be developed for coordinated coverage of activities, including civil defense, in Moscow most likely to reflect abnormalities or preparations for hostilities. USIB assigned responsibility for preparation of the MOG to the NIC with assistance from the USIB agencies.

The original MOG needs to be revised and updated. It is heavily oriented towards Soviet civil defense preparations. It was also compiled before the formation of DIA. Copies of the original MOG and the conclusions and recommendations of the 1961 Warning Systems Survey are attached. The MOG fell into disuse after a flurry of interest in it during the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962.

In August 1967, the [redacted] report on strategic warning recommended that the NIC review and update the MOG. No follow-up action was taken at the time. Early in 1969, however, the Department of State proposed in the SWWG that the MOG be dusted off, updated, and made required reading for all Foreign Service officers assigned to Moscow. In April 1969, the Chairman, SWWG, proposed to the Chairman of the Watch Committee that the NIC review and update the MOG. [redacted] has taken no action on this recommendation. [redacted] believes that the requirement remains valid.

3. Recommendation

AT I recommend that you accept the recommendation in [redacted] memorandum of 8 April 1969 and instruct the Director, NIC, to update and revise the MOG and prepare similar guides for other East European posts. A letter of instruction to the Director, NIC, is attached for your signature.

[redacted]

EA/DDCI

Attachments as stated.