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DCI/IC 75-0326

11 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Principal Deputy to the Deputy to the DCI  
for the Intelligence Community

SUBJECT : National/Tactical Interface

1. The meeting with Dr. McRae, member of the NSC Tactical Reconnaissance Panel, Friday, 11 April 1975, provided valuable information regarding the future applications of national resources to assist the tactical commander. As you are well aware, I am an enthusiastic advocate of demonstrating the applicability and capabilities of national systems to support tactical commanders. Such demonstrations, thus far, have caused changes in processing and reporting procedures of national systems and have stimulated various services to modernize their internal procedures to accommodate national information. Unlike reports from studies and committee investigations, results from actual demonstrations in the field develop into physical and procedural changes. Credibility, a prime factor, is established with the tactical commander.

2. Dr. McRae mentioned that a possible recommendation from the NSC Panel would be to conduct "experiments" utilizing Soviet maneuvers as the source for national assets to support the tactical commander in that area. He went even farther to state the "experiment" should include a worldwide endeavor.

3. The recommendation for such a project is an outstanding vehicle to prove or disprove that national systems can support a tactical commander or several tactical commanders; however, it is also a very dangerous venture if it is not properly and sequentially coordinated. To elaborate briefly: such a venture should be accomplished in steps. A small- or medium-sized Soviet maneuver in one area of the world in which national systems would support one commander. This would provide a base of procedures and methodology from which to enlarge the area of coverage and increase the support to more and varied commanders in a step-by-step

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plan. The ultimate goal would be a worldwide endeavor (OKEAN-type Soviet exercise) in which national systems would support not only numerous tactical commanders of various levels and services, but also the national command authority. The planning, coordination and procedural doctrine for such an all-encompassing demonstration must be evolutionary.

4. When the NSC Panel makes the recommendation for such a demonstration, the DCI should be the focal point to head the project. The DCI and his Staff are non-Service or Agency oriented and his charter is to provide leadership in the Intelligence Community. The opportunity to firmly establish his leadership role is available through successfully accomplishing such an endeavor as outlined here. Coupled with the results of the National/Tactical Pilot Study, the demonstrations would provide a test bed and vastly improve our ability to handle a tactical situation or period of tension. I strongly recommend we become involved and assume the leadership in this endeavor.



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