

14 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]  
Special Assistant to the DCI

FROM: [redacted]  
Chief, Community Security Group

SUBJECT: [redacted] Proposal

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1. At the first meeting of your Working Group you asked for input on ways that could be employed that might assist to separate operational from product material. Here are some thoughts.

2. Historically, it has been accepted that we cannot have a completely clean compartmentation break between the collectors, the processors, the producers and the consumers. There is a need by the processors, e.g., photo interpreters, to have some knowledge of the operational mechanics. There is a need by the producers/taskers for information about the capabilities and limitations of the collection technology. And there is some need by the consumer about the reliability - timeliness of the information. There are also purely technical problems which preclude a hard and fast compartmentation such as the fact that satellite photography (the film) reveals the capabilities of the platform.

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3. These needs have never been addressed to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. However, there were various techniques used which had varying degrees of customer acceptability and of security satisfaction. These include:

a. The inclusion of the processing elements in with the collectors. Under this arrangement, operational access approvals are provided to front line processors e.g., photo interpreters.

b. Preparation of special extracts from the operational data by the collectors for limited and controlled release under Product caveats to the front line processors. This procedure was successfully followed in connection with providing information about the U-2 camera capabilities and the early satellite platform to the photo interpreters.

c. The special extracts of operational material was subsequently formalized and made available through a device of formal subcompartmentation of the consumer population, i.e., [redacted] subcompartment in the TK system.

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d. The release of operational material (with very little held back) by the collector to the processor and consumer populations without formalized subcompartmentation, e.g., [redacted]

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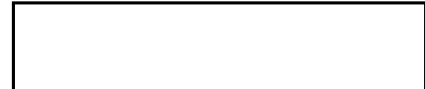
e. The elimination of formal compartmentation of the collection process and the single access approval for collection processing consuming populations as is done in the COMINT Control System. (It is acknowledged that there is defacto compartmentation between the collection and exploitation consumer in the COMINT arena but there is no formal procedure similar to the relationship between the [redacted] and TK systems).

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Of these five methods to permit the flow of operational data to those in non-collection endeavors, the use of selected release of operational data under control of the collector appears to offer the most secure and less administratively burdensome method.

It offers the following advantages:

- a. Material can be selected and released to meet the needs of the population addressed, e.g., exploitation personnel can be informed of those elements required to permit maximum utilization of the data's less technical data can be released to the tasking community; neither element need be informed of the costs, contractors, management or operation control procedures.
- b. The receiving population can be predetermined and necessary security safeguards taken.
- c. The parameters around the data released set the limitations of what the receiving population can expect to receive.
- d. The classification process and document control is facilitated.



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