

13 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Executive Director-Comptroller
THRU : Chief, Historical Staff/DCI
SUBJECT : Historical Programs in the Directorates for Intelligence, Science and Technology, and Support

1. On 1 June 1966 I returned to the Agency at your suggestion under contract to initiate and coordinate historical programs in the areas of the DDI, DDS&T, and DDS. The Clandestine Services had already inaugurated a comprehensive program for the writing of histories covering their many activities and operations. After a year and a half their program was well advanced and was showing satisfactory results. It was your idea that as the Agency neared its nineteenth birthday, the other Directorates should follow suit.

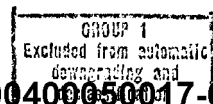
2. Needless to say, initially the experience was rather frustrating. I talked with the three Deputy Directors and many senior officials in their offices. Everyone appeared to recognize the need for histories, but no one appeared to be anxious to do anything about it. At this point I am afraid that histories just represented additional papers that had to be written.

3. However, after your memorandum to the three Deputy Directors of 1 August 1966, things began to move ahead. The three Deputies issued notices setting up Historical Boards and, in some cases, nominated Historical Officers (see Attachment A).

4. The three Boards are pretty well agreed that for each of their major components, there should be:

a. A fairly lengthy chronological narrative history.

b. A number of monographs or historical studies dealing with special activities or operations.



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These have been suggested as separate papers so that the logical flow of the narrative will not be interrupted by lengthy dissertations on specific and often unusual activities.

5. The three Boards are further in substantial agreement in regard to how the histories should be written. In general, it would be impractical to ask staff officers to write lengthy narratives in addition to their other duties. In regard to these narratives, it has therefore been agreed that:

a. Each major component will attempt to identify capable staff employees who intend to retire within three to six months. In many cases such employees can be relieved of their regular duties and assigned to writing historical papers.

b. If procedure a., above, does not appear to be feasible, each major component will contract with annuitants to write historical papers. In accordance with your instructions, the three Historical Boards have been advised that the number of annuitants under contract must be held to an absolute minimum.

6. The historical program, although finally off to what I believe is a good start, varies considerably within the three Directorates. All DDI offices have submitted their tentative programs with, in some cases, an indication of who will write the histories and the approximate deadlines. These programs are flexible and probably will change with time. (See Attachment B.1.)

7. The major components of DDS&T have submitted memos briefly indicating the proposed content of their narrative chronologies and who will write them. However, they have not as yet indicated what monographs or special historical studies will be necessary. Memoranda covering these will be in the hands of the DDS&T Historical Board by 16 January 1967. (See Attachment B.2.)

8. There have been two meetings of the DDS Board, but as yet no submission of programs from its major components. These programs will be in the hands of the Board by 16 January 1967.

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9. So far, there have been indications that in the DDI area there may be a request for five to ten annuitants under contract, although it is a little early to be definite on this subject. The DDI offices have been asked to submit lists of possible annuitants with their defense in each case. When I have received these, they will be cleared with you. So far DDS&T has indicated no desire for annuitants under contract, although I suspect that when the offices have submitted their full programs, they will find that some of the work has to be done outside. It is too early on to determine the needs of DDS. (See Attachment C.)

10. Having overcome the initial inertia in regard to historical writing, I am pleased to find that there is a certain amount of enthusiasm for this program. The three Deputies and their senior officials have all been most cooperative. I think people are beginning to feel that they would like to set down for posterity a record of their exploits. This is all to the good. However, there is a danger to objectivity in the over-enthusiasm of a writer. In all Directorates, therefore, we are setting up a system of checks and reviews for every paper, by senior personnel other than the writer.

11. I feel confident that within the next six months, all programs in the three Directorates will be progressing in a satisfactory manner and that we will have in hand a number of papers finished or in draft form.

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Historical Staff/DCI

Attachments:
As stated

cc:  25X1A9a
Chief, HS/DCI

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