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16 AUG 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Richard J. Kerr
Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: SIG(I) Meeting on the National Intelligence
Topics, 26 August 1982

1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum provides background material and suggested talking points (at TAB A) for the subject meeting.

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2. Background: The SIG(I) meeting on 26 August will have the 1982 NITs as one of its agenda items. Copies of these NITs (as agreed to by the IG(I) on 28 July) have been sent to SIG(I) principals, and are included here at TABs B and C. Formulation of these 1982 topics has resulted in a longer but more comprehensive list of Current NITs than for 1981, and a modified set of Continuing NITs showing more detail and specificity than for last year. These changes have been made at the request of the consumers.

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3. Issues: I do not anticipate much debate or concern by the SIG(I) regarding the substance of the 1982 NITs. Rather, comments received from senior policymakers point first to a need to clarify the purpose of the Current NITs, and to improve the form and timeliness of the Community's response thereto. Secondly, I believe legitimate questions have been raised regarding the utility of the Continuing NITs, and their relationship to DCID 1/2 and other mechanisms whereby consumer needs are made known to the Community.

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4. Staff Position: The Community needs to have both formal and informal interaction with its customers in the policy elements of government. As a formal mechanism the NITs can serve several purposes: provide general guidance concerning important areas for intelligence support; focus production on problems of specific interest to the policymakers; serve as the basis for determining collection gaps, which in turn can be used to task the collectors. Some evolutionary steps are being taken to assure that our response to the NITs is more timely and dynamic—we will close the loop with the collectors, and computer applications are being examined. More drastic change may be needed. The IPC will this fall provide you with detailed recommendations following its study of consumer/intelligence interfaces. In the meantime, it will be helpful to have the perspectives of the SIG(I) principals.

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Richard J. Kerr

Attachments:
as stated

TAB B CONTAINS TOP SECRET MATERIAL

COVER MEMO CAN BE RECLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL
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SUBJECT: SIG(I) Meeting on NITs, 26 August 1982

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