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Date 4 JAN 91 HRP 89-2

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ESSENCE OF THE SR PROBLEM

HRP 89-2

1. There was, is, and for some time will continue to be a need for intelligence studies of the type represented by the SR's. For this reason, ~~such studies~~ ^{such studies} should have been and should continue to be written.

2. ORE was not the agency that should have been called upon to write such intelligence studies. ORE, over its dead body, however, was committed to the production of SR's, has produced a good many, has several more in various stages of production, and several others planned. Whereas it might have been simple, and would have been advisable to turn the project over to a more appropriate agency a few years ~~ago~~ back, it would be difficult now and probably not feasible.

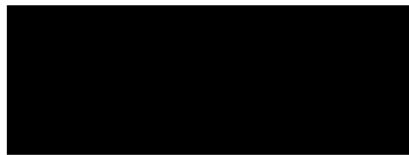
3. The complaint about conflict with the NIS has been brought up continually, but it carries no weight because (a) completion of the NIS is in the misty future, and (b) the SR and NIS serve quite different purposes. Even when the NIS is completed, ^{up-to-date} with actual SR's or digests of the NIS (which will be much the same thing as SR's) will have to be produced.

4. Meanwhile, (a) the contention that the SR's have done and for some time will continue to do a lot of good is susceptible to proof; (b) if you were suddenly to

abandon the program, you would hear loud complaints; (c) many Branch Chiefs,

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originally violent oponents of the whole program, have become converted to it because they think it serves a purpose in itself, helps train analysts, and serves to put branch files and thinking in order; and (d) abandonment of most SR's now in process would represent considerable waste.



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