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2 September 1949

The Assistant Director, R&E  
Via : Chief, Plans and Policy Staff  
Chief, Global Survey Group

Monthly Report

Reference: ORE Operating Procedure - Instruction No. 1, 3 August 1949, and  
attached Reporting Guide for G/GS.

1. In view of my absence during most of August and the absence of my colleagues now, I am unable to render a full report for August.
2. The principal problem noted by this Group during August was a deterioration in effectiveness of the procedure of formal coordination. Two especially vexatious aspects of this development were the increasing tendency of IAC agencies:
  - a. To dissent after thorough working level coordination had been accomplished and with respect to issues never previously raised in the process of working level coordination.
  - b. To dissent on irrelevant issues, either ignoring the terms of the problem presented or attributing to the text meanings neither intended nor properly attributable to it (in some cases, expressly disavowed).

This problem is now new. The trend referred to is merely an aggravation of a long-standing situation. Although NSC 50 may have some influence in this direction, it is apparent that the principal factor is sensitivity regarding departmental budgetary interests. Under the influence of prospective budget cuts, the tendency to base intelligence estimates on departmental policy considerations rather than upon objective analysis has reappeared.

3. No meaningful recommendations can be made until the existing confusions with respect to missions and doctrine have been clarified by basic decisions in relation to NSC 50. The experience referred to above, however, can be used to support the point that CIA's independence of judgment must be preserved as a safeguard against departmental bias.

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