

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES (1981)

The Senior Review Panel [redacted]

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[redacted] was asked to compare National Intelligence Estimates during the first three quarters of 1981 with those during 1979 and 1980 in relevance, tempo and quality. They reported that in 1979-80 there was substantially less use of the Community and a dearth of interagency estimates directly pointed to critical policy issues in the manner followed since the late spring 1981 under revised NIC procedures. Timeliness of intelligence advice and rapidity of response time was much improved in 1981. Design of analysis/estimates--in content shaped more closely to specific policy problems and in forms more useful to policymakers--has also been significantly enhanced.

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Finally, in 1979-80, there was substantial evidence of capacity for pertinent anticipatory analysis going unused because of insufficient linkage between the policy and the intelligence communities. Some of these cases later developed into major policy issues involving instability in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central America. Our impression is that, in 1981, performance in converting perceptive basic studies in NFAC into effective inputs for policymakers has been materially improved.

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