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Study of Intelligence Production
in Relation to NSSM 108

Purpose:

To assess the quality and relevance of the intelligence input to NSSM 108; and on the basis of lessons learned, to prepare conclusions and recommendations regarding intelligence processes and products.

Scope:

In the preparation of NSSM 108, of December 10, 1970, Review of US Policy Toward Latin America, the intelligence community was asked:

- (1) to provide an estimate of the situation and trends in Latin America; and
- (2) to participate in an inter-agency reappraisal of assumptions underlying US policy, assessment of US interests, and analysis of options for US policy and programs.

The proposed study of intelligence production in relation to the NSSM would involve an assessment of the procedures followed in the preparation of the intelligence input, a description of the interaction between intelligence and policy in the drafting of the

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NSSM, and an evaluation of the quality of the intelligence contribution. Specific questions to be addressed would include:

1. How was the groundwork laid for the intelligence input? What questions were put to the intelligence community by the policy people?
2. What was the procedure for preparing the intelligence contributions? To what use were they put in the drafting of the NSSM?
3. What were the procedures for interaction and coordination between the policy and intelligence officers in the NSSM process?
4. How well did the intelligence input meet the needs of the NSSM? What were the policy-makers' assessments of the intelligence contribution? Was there a need for better quality?

Procedure:

State would be prepared to chair a study group which would include representatives of CIA, DIA, and INR. A user panel would be selected to assist in assessing the quality of the intelligence input and the procedures for intelligence-policy interaction in the preparation of the NSSM.

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