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

FROM: Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Future of Economic Intelligence

1. Following up on our conversation in July, I asked for a think piece on economic intelligence--where we are and the challenges we are likely to face in the years ahead. This paper is the result.

2. I believe this report raises a number of critical questions that we need to address. It is clear that economic intelligence is a vital part of the CIA's job and that the economic threats this nation will face directly and indirectly in the future will only grow in scope and complexity. If we want to be positioned to meet these issues forcefully and directly, the groundwork must be laid now.

3. As the paper points out, building the collection capabilities we will need in the future requires active cooperation between the DI and the DO.

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Because of this, I believe we should establish a small working group to begin mapping out a unified Agency approach to the entire issue of economic collection needs. This group could look at, but not necessarily limit itself to, the approaches discussed in the final pages of this report. To keep things manageable, it might be best to have about a four-to-six person team tackle this. The group should prepare an initial set of possible initiatives for consideration by this committee.

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4. I should point out that one issue this paper does not address is the role of economic intelligence in support of the US business community. This is a special issue that I believe should be treated separately. However, I have attached the memo prepared earlier on the subject in order to refresh your memory.

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SUBJECT: The future of Economic Intelligence

5. The attached is intended to get people started thinking and planning. It is only a first step. If you think it has merit, perhaps the two of you, the Executive Director, and the four deputies should meet to discuss it (or perhaps you three, Stein, and I to start).

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Robert M. Gates

Attachments:

- Tab A. Economic Intelligence in the Years Ahead
- Tab B. DCI Memo

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