

17 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: General John M. Reynolds

SUBJECT : Agency Views and Comments on the
JIIRG Report

1. The Agency commends the detailed and objective review carried out by the JIIRG. The massive amount of detail compiled by the Group will be of significant assistance in taking future actions to deal with the various imagery interpretation problems.

2. The Agency in general finds no fault with the findings reached by the JIIRG. The Agency does, however, have some difficulties with some of the recommendations made by JIIRG. Two of these are of particular importance.

3. For one, the Agency notes a lack of costing data pertaining to any of the tasking options. We believe it would be well worthwhile to be able to present to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence such data for Options 1 and 2. With regard to Option 2, preferred by JIIRG, this clearly would add substantially to the support load and personnel and equipment requirements at NPIC. This raises fundamental questions such as the total cost and time required in gearing NPIC to be ready to carry out all assigned tasks. Such questions relate directly, also, to the matter of additional space for NPIC. We need to know, for example, if the additional tasks assigned to NPIC would require at the outset more space than is currently available in Building 213. (In respect to new space, the Agency believes that alternatives to new construction are worthy of consideration and cannot at this time without additional data concur with the recommendation that such construction be validated.) There is also a question as to whether the ADP machinery of NPIC and other Community offices is sufficiently advanced to do the job as called for by the JIIRG report.

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In a nut-shell, the Agency cannot accept preferred Option 2 pending the answers to these questions. So long as there are no answers to these questions, the Agency is unable to accept the risk of attempting to perform tasks which cannot be performed with existing NPIC capacity. The Agency is prepared to undertake special studies designed to provide the answers or to support the JIIRG or any other inter-agency group in coming up with the necessary data.*

4. The Agency agrees with the thrust of JIIRG findings relating to the need for an inter-agency mechanism to deal with the exploitation aspects of imagery collection. The Agency, however, does not approve of the COMEX concept and the proposed DCID as currently described and drafted by JIIRG. We believe that the proposed DCID invests COMEX with too great a degree of executive authority.

The proposed DCID, in addition, also encroaches upon the responsibilities, in the requirements field, of existing USIB committees, particularly JAEIC, GMAIC and SIC.

The creation of a separate exploitation committee, while perpetuating COMOR as currently constituted, would tend increasingly to confront USIB, and particularly the Chairman of USIB, with a series of "Hobson's choices," arguing the pros and cons of collection versus exploitation priorities and requirements. It would seem logical to arrange to maximize inter-agency staff consideration of such matters and to minimize the serving up of dilemma-like issues to USIB and its Chairman. It seems to us that a consolidation of a COMEX group with a COMOR group as parts of a single entity responsive to USIB would insure the kind of inter-agency staff work desired. Such an arrangement, moreover, would provide opportunity to deal with all three of the major variables relating to the imagery interpretation problem, these being exploitation capacity, requirements generation, and collection capability.

* With regard to the recommended standard methodology to be employed in forecasting the needs of imagery interpreters, NPIC advises that it has not been able to ascertain that this methodology is in fact applicable to work undertaken at the Center. The Agency is confident and hopeful that the reduced projections of needs as reported by JIIRG will come true but as a result of NPIC's advice, the Agency must reserve its position pending further study and cannot endorse the proposed methodology.

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The current and pressing imagery exploitation problem is the sorting out of requirements and priorities in connection with third-phase read-out. As a means of pressing forward toward a solution of this problem, and of establishing the most appropriate mechanism to deal with exploitation as well as collection for USIB, the Agency suggests that the Executive Secretary of USIB, the Chairman of COMOR and a senior representative from NPIC consult with the JIIRG and submit a recommendation.

5. Because it is not possible to implement all of the JIIRG recommendations prior to additional periods of time and study, you and General Carroll may find it useful in presenting your study to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence to attach time phases to the various recommendations you make. As currently set forth, it would appear that the recommendations are to be implemented and all mechanisms in place and functioning immediately upon approval.

L. K. White
Executive Director-Comptroller

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