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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Estimate [redacted] Volume I, 7 July 1981,
"Warsaw Pact Forces Opposite NATO" [redacted]

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1. (U) Purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the apparent loss of 78 copies of subject document.

2. (S) On 3 August 1981, 178 copies of subject document were furnished to DIA for further dissemination to specified DoD addressees. One hundred copies were intended for dissemination within the National Capital Region (NCR), with the remainder for addressees outside the NCR. In early September 1981, an intended recipient of the document contacted DIA and requested the status of dissemination as that organization's copies had not been received. Subsequent inquiry revealed that the 78 copies intended for external NCR distribution could not be located. Exhaustive searches were conducted without success in all DIA areas where the documents had been received, processed for shipment, or might logically have been received or stored by error. Document receipts confirmed that NCR recipients had received their 100 copies. In addition, contacts with external NCR recipients confirmed nonreceipt of their copies.

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3. (S) An extensive investigation by DIA's Office of Security revealed that the 78 copies described above had allegedly been included with other classified material in a two-container shipment forwarded for processing to a DIA mail facility at Arlington Hall Station, VA. Other classified material included in the shipment was located; however, no trace of the 78 documents or accompanying transmittal documentation was found. As a result of this incident, corrective actions were undertaken to strengthen DIA's document control and handling procedures. In addition, a task group is presently studying DIA's document control and accountability procedures and is developing recommendations on further improving these areas.

4. (S) Considering the volume of material involved, inadvertent destruction of the documents appears unlikely. It is also unlikely that the loss of the documents was the result of deliberate compromise or espionage. While the removal of one document might go unnoticed for a period of time, the outright removal of 78 documents would certainly trigger alarm much sooner. Further, the known modus operandi of hostile intelligence services do not lend themselves to the outright theft of 78 copies of a document for espionage purposes. It is more likely that one copy would be surreptitiously removed for photographing and then replaced so as not to draw undue attention. The possibility

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Declassify on 19 March 1988

DIA review completed.

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does exist that DIA never received the documents in question. Our investigation determined that the receiving clerk did not count the copies received. This is further supported by the fact that no trace of the documents has been found, either in DIA or among selected recipients outside the NCR.

5. (S) The search for the missing documents, as well as the review of DIA's document control and handling procedures, is continuing. Should any significant developments occur, you will be immediately advised.



JAMES A. WILLIAMS
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Director

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied