

~~DDI~~ 01881-85

9 APR 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

[redacted]
Director, Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

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SUBJECT: Seeking Alternative Analysis on Afghanistan

1. Although we in NESAs are confident of our analysis on Afghanistan and encounter no significant differences of opinion within the Intelligence Community on the state of the war, we are making strong efforts to obtain the views of outside experts and find new approaches to the problem.

-- NESAs is negotiating a contract with [redacted] to prepare an independent analysis of the war. [redacted] has assembled a panel of experts on Soviet or Afghanistan matters to contribute to a paper which is to resemble a national estimate. At our request, [redacted] is contracting with scholars who are highly qualified but who can take a fresh look at the problem.

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-- We have for some time also been seeking out scholars and journalists with knowledge of Afghanistan for consultations on developments and the dynamics of the situation. The analysts are also in regular contact with Afghan exiles to obtain their views and details, particularly on economic and sociological matters. We have been talking with some Soviet scholars, but few are giving the situation any real thought. (Attached is information from recent meetings with Afghans.)

-- We make a point of contacting outside experts who do not agree with our analysis on the war and asking them to challenge our views. For example, we talk regularly with [redacted] who is a leading spokesman for the view that the Soviets are winning the war and that the Afghan regime is starting to consolidate its control.

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SUBJECT: Seeking Alternative Analysis

-- With the assistance of OGI's Insurgency Center, we have brought in American scholars who have studied the dynamics of insurgencies worldwide to help us think about factors important in the Afghanistan problem. We have also found and fully cleared a consultant who has agreed to explore ways of using advanced operations research methodologies to "measure" the war.

2. We will continue to look for independent assessment by maintaining and expanding contacts. Over the next several months we will bring together many experts for another conference on Afghanistan. We are also looking into subjects for new external contracts.

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Attachment
As stated

DDI/NESA/SO,  (9 Apr 85)

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