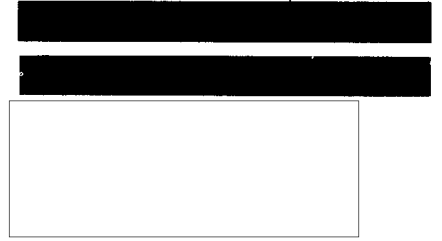




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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Critical Intelligence Problems Committee

International Narcotics Study

Record of Progress

Challenges Ahead

August 1985

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**International Narcotics Study
Record of Progress
Challenges Ahead**

August 1985

This study is approved by the Director of Central Intelligence.



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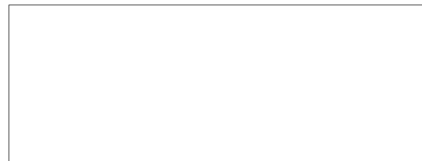
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PREFACE

The Critical Intelligence Problems Committee (CIPC) study, *International Narcotics Coordination and Collection*, was promulgated by the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) and the National Foreign Intelligence Council (NFIC) with the requirement for the CIPC to review and report within six to 12 months on the status of implementing the recommendations contained in the International Narcotics Study.

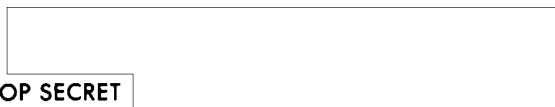
This report summarizes and documents the actions that have been put into effect or are in the process of being implemented. The Intelligence Community's capability to address the international narcotics problem has significantly improved during the past 12 months. The very existence of a viable narcotics intelligence community today is due in large measure to the heightened awareness by Community principals of the gravity of the narcotics threat to the US. We believe that the Community's commitment to implement the recommendations contained in the International Narcotics Study is a major factor in this improved intelligence posture.

The magnitude and dynamic nature of the narcotics intelligence target is such, however, that the Community will continue to be confronted with difficult and complex tasks in fulfilling its narcotics mission. These issues are discussed in "The Challenge Ahead" section of this report.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CIPC narcotics intelligence effort—including a detailed study promulgated by the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), with the concurrence of the National Foreign Intelligence Council (NFIC) on 18 April 1984, and a following addendum which was forwarded to the DCI on 7 February 1985—has brought narcotics into the mainstream of critical issues being addressed in a systematic way by the Intelligence Community. The two CIPC studies have provided the basis for the intelligence structure now in place to support the drug control objectives of the United States. Today, the Intelligence Community is a major contributor to the US Government's effort against this uniquely dynamic target.

To improve our narcotics intelligence posture, 59 recommendations were set forth in these two reports. To date, 48 recommendations—over 80 percent—have either been put into effect or are in the process of being implemented by the responsible department or agency. This is a striking record of progress when contrasted with the narcotics intelligence posture of the Community only a few brief years ago. However, these accomplishments do not capture the experience gained by the Community over the past year in marshaling its resources and talents against this complex and challenging intelligence problem.

The recommendations that were endorsed by the DCI, NFIC, and the CIPC involved a commitment of intelligence resources to be arrayed against a broad spectrum of high-priority narcotics targets. Today, there exists a viable narcotics intelligence community composed of a cadre of dedicated intelligence professionals. This expanded narcotics intelligence community, with representatives in the communities of both law enforcement and foreign intelligence, operates on a variety of levels and engages the collective resources of the Intelligence Community and law enforcement organizations. The Intelligence Community in supporting the government's campaign against illegal drugs has gone beyond traditional intelligence analysis, and is now looking for exploitable vulnerabilities of the drug traffickers as well as opportunities to enhance foreign drug control efforts.

Since the time the CIPC began to examine this critical intelligence problem, numerous concrete accomplishments have been recorded. They include:

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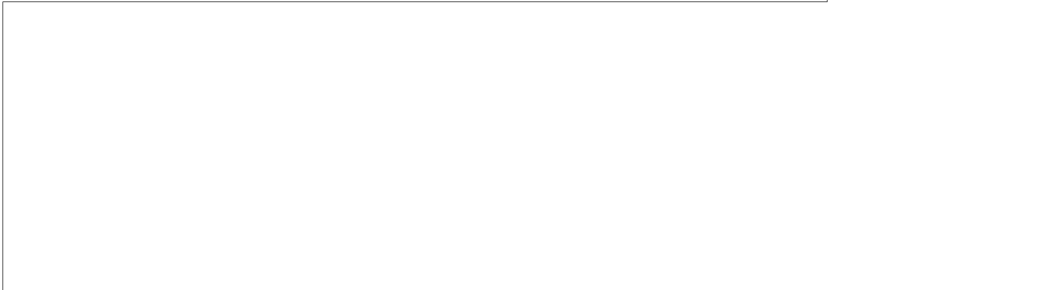
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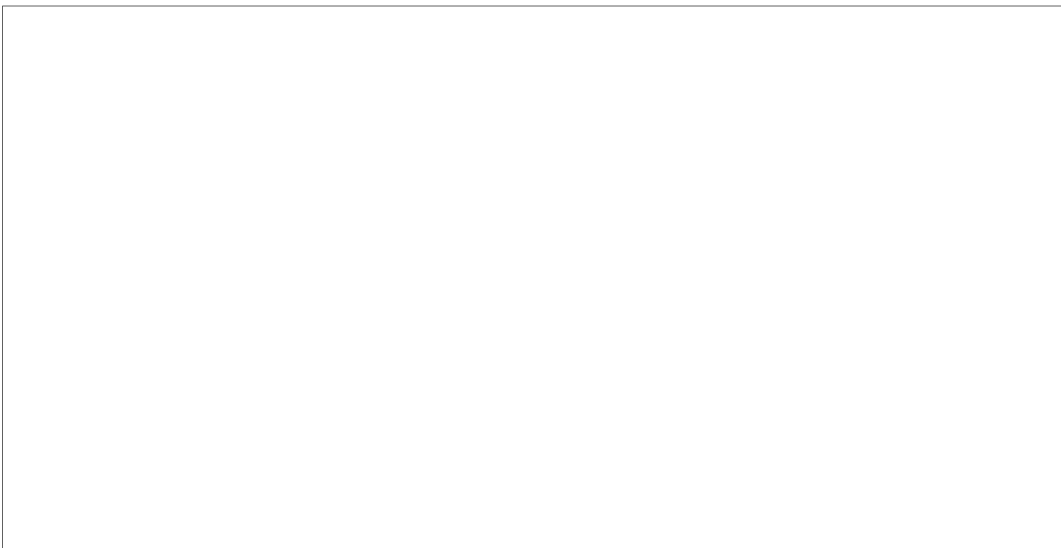
- Establishment of a research and development program to respond to the specific and unique needs of intelligence personnel involved in narcotics intelligence collection.
- Expansion of the number of Memoranda of Understanding between offices of the General Counsels of the Intelligence Community, the Justice Department, and law enforcement organizations to ensure adequate protection of sensitive sources and methods.

This last point is part of a much larger effort that has resulted in establishing a common framework which enhances the flow of intelligence concerning narcotics to designated US law enforcement agencies, while at the same time, protecting the security of the information and of intelligence sources and methods.



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As indicated in the preceding discussion, the Intelligence Community is pursuing all avenues of the intelligence process in an effort to combat the international narcotics threat. This record of achievement is in no way intended to suggest that the Intelligence Community has solved all of its problems or that it will successfully meet the challenges ahead without difficulty. Both the magnitude and dynamic nature of the narcotics target will continue to compel collector and analyst alike to readjust and refine the effort. For example:



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At the same time, the Intelligence Community will continue to be faced with the challenging question of how much further to go in the investment of future intelligence resources against the narcotics target. In its conclusions, the CIPC

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Narcotics Study emphasized that, "Over the longer term, the amount of additional resources programmed by the Intelligence Community against the narcotics target will depend in large measure on the priority attached to the issue by senior levels of the US Government."

The clear implication behind this statement holds true today. Before investing additional resources, the Intelligence Community will have to look closely at the proposition that more intelligence on the narcotics issue is not necessarily better intelligence. In this regard, the Community is fast nearing the point at which a qualitative assessment is needed of the contribution narcotics intelligence collection has made in specific terms to the support of US drug control goals. The issue of the relative importance of narcotics to other priority concerns must also be examined. As a positive intelligence activity, the narcotics target ranks relatively well when compared with other comparable global intelligence concerns, such as terrorism and technology transfer. However, from a realistic standpoint, as a US national security issue, it is not on a par with other important, complex, and operationally difficult intelligence targets. Thus far, the Intelligence Community has been moving at a measured pace as its involvement in narcotics intelligence requires increasing commitments and demands, examining with some degree of care and scrutiny the probable consequence of each step. We believe this approach is sound.

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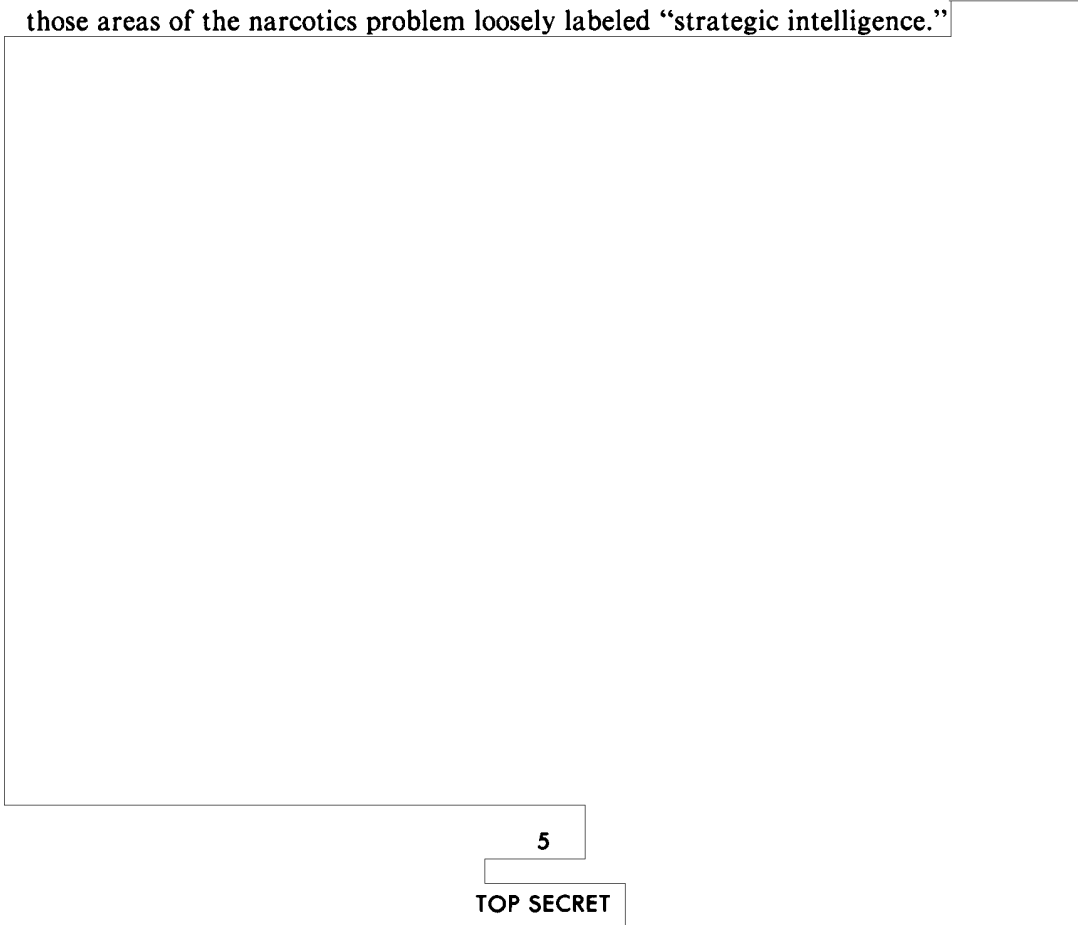
THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

The Intelligence Community has gone some distance in using the mechanisms and disciplines of the traditional intelligence process to support the US Government's international narcotics control effort. Over the past year, diverse elements within the Community have taken initiatives in heretofore largely unexplored areas of inquiry and grappled with intelligence concerns and issues for which there were no precedents. Significant substantive intelligence gaps remain with regard to narcotics intelligence coverage which the CIPC Narcotics Study, as well as the subsequent addendum, have reviewed in some detail. The NIO for Narcotics is aware of these gaps and is specifically charged with bringing them to the attention of the appropriate Community collection elements on a priority basis.

Transcending all aspects of narcotics intelligence collection, analysis, and production is the need to assure the development of a cadre of dedicated narcotics intelligence professionals within each department/agency thoroughly familiar with both the capabilities of the Intelligence Community and the requirements of the law enforcement organizations.

There also is apt to be a growing need for more actionable intelligence analysis. Currently the analytical components of the Intelligence Community concentrate on those areas of the narcotics problem loosely labeled "strategic intelligence."

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