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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

7 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: STAT

FROM:

Director of Central Reference

SUBJECT: Action Plan for Comprehensive CIRS Review

1. The action plan for the comprehensive CIRS review has been looked at by various interested parties in CIA. There is general agreement that a CIRS review is in order, with a strong feeling that technological capabilities--as are evident in information handling development plans by the primary agencies--are bringing into question the need for CIRS.

2. There is some concern, however, about the detail of the review, its intent and those participating. For example:
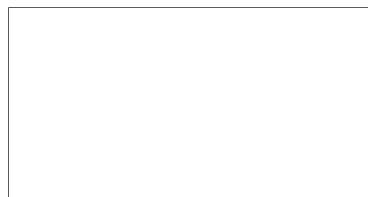
-- detail: there appears to be an effort to revisit every aspect of the CIRS plan and stated requirements without first seeing where the answers to the basic questions take us. In other words, the answers to the basic questions may obviate the need to go further in the review.

-- intent: the seven points under the purpose of effort in the action plan, and particularly the seventh, suggest that the findings of the review have been predetermined, viz., that there will only be some mid-course corrections. This makes this effort more a reaffirmation than a review.

-- participants: having the CIRS Management Coordination Group do the review is not unlike having General Dynamics determine whether their bills to the Defense Department are reasonable. As with SAFE in the past, it would seem that a more disinterested group should be involved in the review, or at least in the analysis of the data.

3. Based on the above concerns, we believe that the most logical approach would be to have the CIRS Management Coordination Group pull together data on what systems the primary agencies have or are developing (you indicate many of the types of data on page 3 of the action plan) and then brief the IHC--so that the IHC can answer the basic question (viz., will these systems, in the main, satisfy the needs of most of the analysts). Once the answer to that question is arrived at, a determination can be made about the next step. This

SUBJECT: Action Plan for Comprehensive CIRS Review (cont.)

approach could save some time, focuses initially on the primary question and
is in keeping with the statement of the new Chairman of the IHC, viz. that the
IHC should be concerned with broad policy issues and not the details of
implementing policy.

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PROPOSED MILESTONES FOR CIRS REVIEW

MAJOR TASKS	MAY 15 29	JUNE 12 26	JULY 10 24	AUGUST 7
⊗ Revalidate the need for CIRS:				
- Review distribution patterns and volumes (Q.1)	⊢———⊣			
- Review volume, type, and date (historical coverage) requests to central reference facilities (Q.1)	⊢———⊣			
- Review current and proposed information handling requirements for major automated projects in IC and civil sector (i.e., _____)	⊢—————————⊣			
⊗ Technology Questions (Q.4)				
- Assessment of CIRS identified components to provide support	⊢——————⊣			
- DODIIS/COINS network gateway		⊢——⊣		
⊗ Management's Security Concerns (Q.5)			⊢———⊣	
⊗ Impact of Successful CIRS Implementation on IC (Q.3)			⊢——-—⊢—⊣	
⊗ Review of CIRS Management/Implementation Structure (Q.6)			⊢——⊣	

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30 APRIL 1985

LEGEND

X   Increment of scheduled activity to be completed.

=   Completed increment of scheduled activity.

Scheduled event.

?   Tentatively scheduled event.

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