IC STAFF
Routing Slip

TO:	ACTION	COORD	INFO
EO/ICS			
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DD/ICS			
DD/RE			
EA-D/ICS			
SA-D/ICS			
SA-D/ICS-EP			
REO			X
COMIREX			X
SIGINT			X
HUMINT			X
MASINT			X
IPC			X
PBO			X
PPO			X
CCISCMO			X
IHC			X
RDCO			X
LL			X
SECRETARIAT			X
ADMIN			X
REGISTRY			

SUSPENSE: _____

Date

REMARKS:

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D/ICS

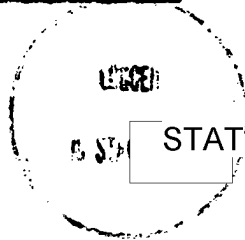STAT

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755 -6000

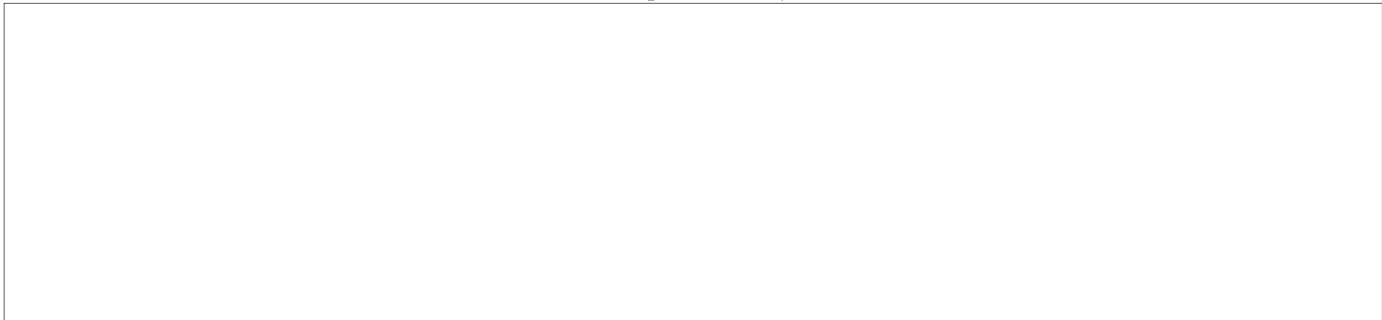Serial: J-1005-88
7 November 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Synopsis of the 3 November Computer Virus ARPANET
Propagation - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

The National Computer Security Center learned of the virus
attack shortly after the first reports on Wednesday evening and
has been in nearly continuous contact with the major members of
the network ever since. The Center obtained a copy of the
offending software on Thursday morning, 3 November, and is
examining the sizeable and sophisticated software line by line to
determine exactly how it works and what specific system
vulnerabilities it exploits.

The major impact on those systems operating within the
network was loss of computer time. To the best of our knowledge
no computers containing classified information were affected. The
virus managed to replicate and place into execution enought copies
of itself to consume all or nearly all of the available computer
time. The effects of the ARPANET/MILNET virus attack can be
described, in terms of the Department of Defense Trusted Computer
Criteria as a "denial of service." Certain ARPANET and MILNET
subscribers simply disconnected their computers from the net; DDN
operations shut down the ARPANET-MILNET mail gateways once they
were aware of the attack. Packet-switches, terminal access
controllers, and monitoring centers were not affected because the
attack took advantage of vulnerabilities of the Berkeley UNIX 4.3
operating system which is only used on host computers.

A meeting of representatives from DCA, NIST, DOE, FBI, and
Lawrence Livermore Labs, among others, will be convened on
Tuesday, 8 November, to exchange information on the nature of the
attack and what can be done to preclude further attacks.

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I will continue to keep you advised as this matter develops.

GERALD R. YOUNG
Deputy Director

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  DIR IC Staff
  DIR DARPA
  ASD (C^3I)

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