

NIO/W

19 December 1983

NOTE FOR: Chairman, NIC

FROM : David Y. McManis  
NIO/Warning

SUBJECT : Comments/Suggestions for the NID

*Bob*

prepared the attached paper in response to your recent request for comments.

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His service in the Situation Room has given him a unique perspective, as you well appreciate.

I'm not sure I agree with his video disc proposal, but we should be thinking of new media for the outyears.

  
D.Y. McManis

Attachment:  
As stated (h/w)

**C O N F I D E N T I A L**The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

19 December 1983

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM :

[REDACTED]  
O/NIO/Warning

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SUBJECT : Comments and Suggestions for the NID

1. Per your request at the NIC Staff Meeting, I would like to offer a few comments and suggestions on the NID. The NID serves its purpose in presenting fast-breaking events to its consumers; however, it can offer both more and less in a different production mode. The time requirements of its consumers, especially at the White House and NSC, makes it important that we offer them "less" with the promise of "more". To address this problem I suggest including a one-page "Special Interests" or "Checklist" section in the beginning of the NID which summarizes, in five lines or less, specific articles which may be of significant interest to the policymaking consumers. The number can be relatively small but must include crucial items designed for the needs and interests of policymakers and other consumers. If they desire a complete explanation they can proceed to the full article. In addition, on the "more" side the NID articles should not only summarize and synthesize information but offer alternative analysis to those facts already given, drawing not only from the latest reports but from other agencies and outside sources in order to tie together specific trends or events. This also offers us an opportunity to identify indicators which may have a bearing on the warning system. In addition, the articles could also include those alternatives which have already been examined and rejected.

2. Following the Comment section of the article we could include, as is done in the Special Analysis section, a Prospects section which could be added to summarize how the events just reported fit into the larger picture involving stated U.S. goals and objectives in that specific region or the overall global picture.

3. Thus, the NID should not only examine the reported intelligence and say "yes" but also examine "why" developments occurred and how they may affect the more important questions or moves not directly linked to those latest events. This will fill

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the gaps between events and implications of warning which affects warning.

4. While the next suggestion will not affect the NID at this specific time it should be addressed for implementation in the future, perhaps no more than five years from now. That is, the possibility of a video disc NID. The "disc" would offer a quick audio and visual briefing on the important events or reports of the day. This would allow the consumers to view the product quickly, cutting down on the time needed to review the printed NID, since as the "disc" presents audio review it also presents video of what it is stating. The "disc" can be accompanied by a brief two-page written summary for those who may require the reinforcement of the printed word for reference. The "disc" also could be programmed and sent via the secure video links which have and will be established between the different agencies and specific consumers. The secure video link offers a control mechanism for distribution since the "disc" could be programmed to run on specific video units. Thus, as the intelligence community moves to a greater degree into near-real-time analysis we can offer the high-level consumer and policymaker a near-real-time intelligence product.

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