

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

18 July 1984

National Intelligence Council

Dr. Richard DeLauer
Under Secretary of Defense
Research & Engineering
Room 3E1006
The Pentagon

Dear Dr. DeLauer:

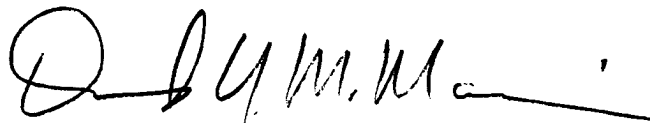
Some months ago you were kind enough to ask me to address the IR&DC, at which time I emphasized the problems being faced by the Washington community, but also our users in the field commands, in recognizing, correlating and accessing critical warning intelligence. I noted the incredible amount of collected bits but limited knowledge flowing from our system; as much as 90% of the data collected ends up in the bit bucket and much of this constitutes pertinent knowledge.

As you will recall, these statements stirred up considerable discussion, particularly in terms of tactical warning, and you asked that the issue be studied further with recommendations to be made at a subsequent meeting. I am not aware that anything concrete has happened.

In the meantime, we are seeing the evolution of the strategic defense initiative (SDI) which places even more emphasis on tactical warning, although the implicit requirement for even stronger strategic warning capabilities must be recognized and dealt with. My contention is that the major SDI should be in the area of information processing leading to effective strategic warning.

Should you consider it to be of value, I would be most pleased to meet with you and discuss the issue further.

Respectfully,



David Y. McManis
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

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