

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Deputy for National Intelligence

12 DEC 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

FROM: Robert R. Bowie

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Priorities

Attached for your information is a list of National Intelligence Topics of Current Interest. The list reflects the discussion of the Policy Review Committee (Intelligence) at its meeting on 25 November on intelligence requirements and priorities. It is expected that this list will be discussed further at a future meeting of the PRC(I) for the purpose of assigning some relative priority among the various topics.

[Redacted Signature Box]

ROBERT R. BOWIE

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Attachment:  
As stated

Distribution:

- Original Addressee
- 1 D/DCI/NI Chrono
- 1 NFAC Registry
- ① SA/NIO Support Chrono
- 1 SA/NIO Support File

MFAC: [Redacted] :12 Dec 77

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST

Advanced Countries

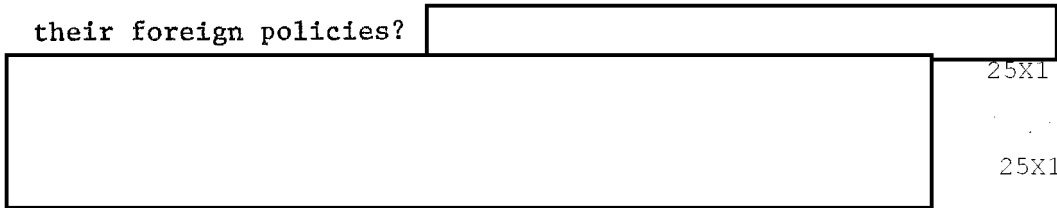
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1. Will there be progress or a slowdown in the economic recovery of the various advanced countries? With what effects on (a) the situation and policies of these countries and (b) co-operation or tensions among them?
2. How do the key advanced countries define their interests in international trading and financial relations? How far are they likely to attempt, and to be able, to support or frustrate US policies? With what impact on Western economic recovery and on policy toward the less developed countries? What leverage has the US?
3. How will Japan and the West European countries react to impending US ground force withdrawals from South Korea?

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6. What are the attitudes and intentions of key West European states toward major political and security issues, including relations with the USSR, SALT, MBFR and cruise missiles and toward U.S. initiatives on them? How do these states perceive the roles they should play, and how does this shape their foreign policies?



8. Is there anything developing that could substantially affect the advanced countries' relations with the US--something on the order of an oil supply or international financial crisis?

The USSR and Eastern Europe

1. What are the attitudes of the key Soviet leaders toward the US? How do they assess US foreign policy, its objectives and

tactics, and the US' ability to pursue its objectives? What key factors underlie their assessments? In which areas does the US have leverage? What developments on which issues could substantially alter the current US-USSR relationship?

2. What are the guiding purposes of Soviet foreign and military policy? Soviet policy toward the Middle East and Africa?
3. How do the Soviets perceive the strategic balance? What are Soviet objectives, strategies, capabilities, and particularly vulnerabilities for strategic warfare--e.g., the accuracy of their intercontinental weapons, cruise missile, civil defense, and a neutron bomb? For war in Europe?
4. What are the USSR's objectives on arms control issues, including SALT, MBFR, CTB, the Indian Ocean, and non-proliferation?
5. What are the prospects for the succession in the leadership of the USSR?
6. What, and how severe, will be the economic pressures on, and particularly the economic vulnerabilities of, the USSR over the next two to three years--e.g., grain, energy, and the rate of growth? What are the implications for Soviet relations with the US, for East-West trade, and for the Soviet's domestic cohesion and strategic posture?

7. How is the ethnic/nationalities problem evolving within the USSR?
8. What are the military trends in the Warsaw Pact, including its concepts, doctrines, and intentions? How do Pact capabilities match its doctrines, with what implications for its strategy?
9. What economic pressures are building up in Eastern Europe, and how severe will they become--particularly hard currency debt problems and sources of raw material and energy? How much latitude will the East European states have to seek economic cooperation with the West? How will economic difficulties affect domestic stability of the East European states, particularly Poland? What will be the implications for the cohesion and reliability of the Warsaw Pact?
10. What are the prospects in Yugoslavia after Tito dies? How will the Soviets react?

#### China

1. Does the PRC intend to seek military technology from the West? If so, where? If the US were to be responsive, what would be the effect on relations with USSR? How would non-communist Asian states react?

2. What are the attitudes and perceptions of the PRC's key leaders, and how do they assess US purposes and capabilities?
3. What sort of relationship does the PRC seek with US, and what will its leaders do to achieve it? What urgency does the PRC attach to gaining control of Taiwan, and what means is it prepared to employ?
4. How confident are Taiwan's leaders in their ability to maintain economic viability and security? What are the implications for their foreign and military policies?
5. What are the chances of a significant lessening of tension between the USSR and China as the leaderships of these two states change? For a more aggressive stance by either or both? What might produce such a change?

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Key Developing Countries

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1. What role in international affairs does each of the key developing countries see itself playing? What are the main emphases of its foreign policies?

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Less Developed Countries

1. Which less developed countries are likely to face crises in the next six to nine months?
2. Where in Africa are the Soviets likely to attempt to exploit regional instability?
3. Which less developed countries are likely to face debt re-scheduling problems?
4. What are the expectations of the countries of the Caribbean for US aid? In which of these countries is there a serious threat of a breakdown in law and order?
5. How do Cuban leaders perceive their country's world role? What are their intentions vis-a-vis the US and in Africa, especially in Ethiopia, Angola, and southern Africa?



Global Issues

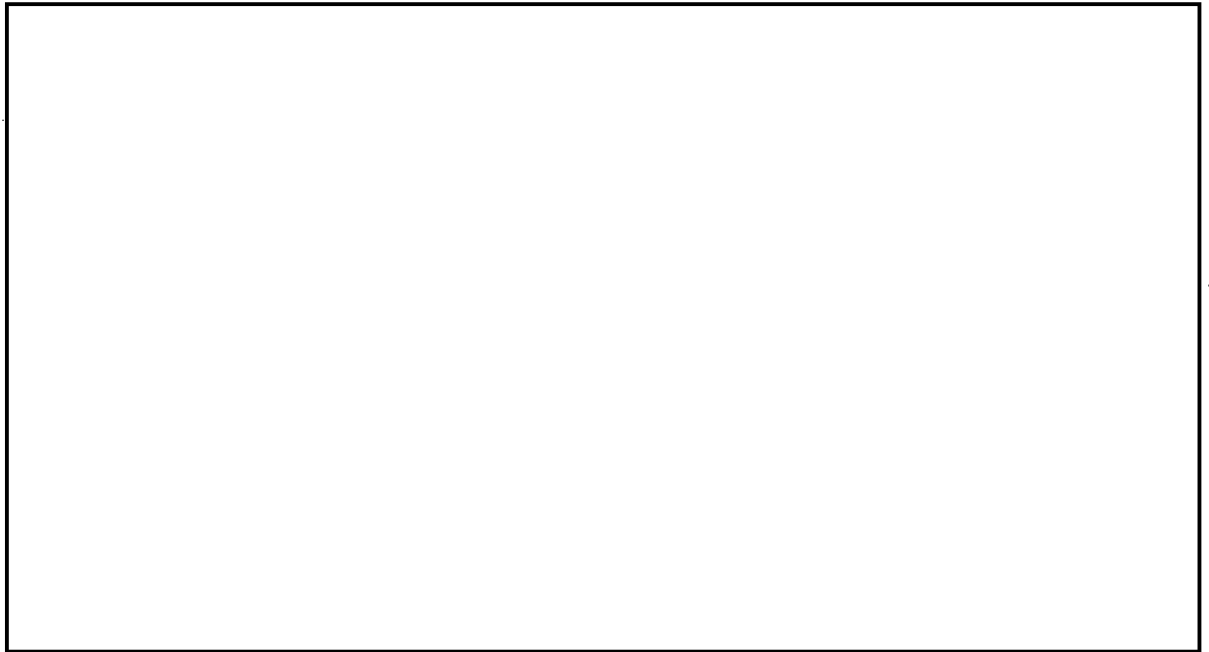
1. Human Rights: How do other nations perceive our human rights policies? How far have they modified their own practices? 25X1
  
2. Nuclear Proliferation: What are the plans and policies for the development of nuclear energy and weapons of   
 What are the prospects for cooperation by the West European states on non-proliferation? What leverage does the U.S. have in controlling proliferation? 25X1
  
3. Energy: What are the likely policies of the oil producing states, especially Saudi Arabia and Mexico, on pricing, production, and expansion of capacity? What are the probable effects and points of leverage for the consuming countries?
  
4. Arms Transfers: What is the prospect that major arms suppliers will cooperate in restraining their exports? Has the effort to restrain arms transfers had any impact

on regional balances or on the influence of actual or potential supplier states? Report the details of specific arms transfers.

5. Transnational Terrorism: What are the prospects for increased transnational terrorism, particularly against energy installations?
6. Law of the Sea: What are the attitudes of the key participants in the Law of the Sea Conference, particularly on the deep sea bed issue?

Critical Areas of Concern

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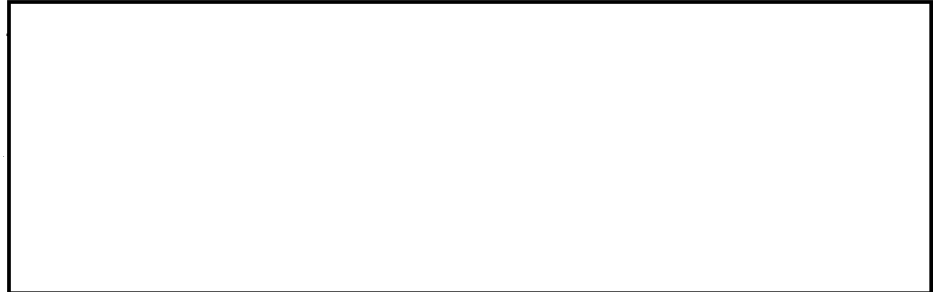
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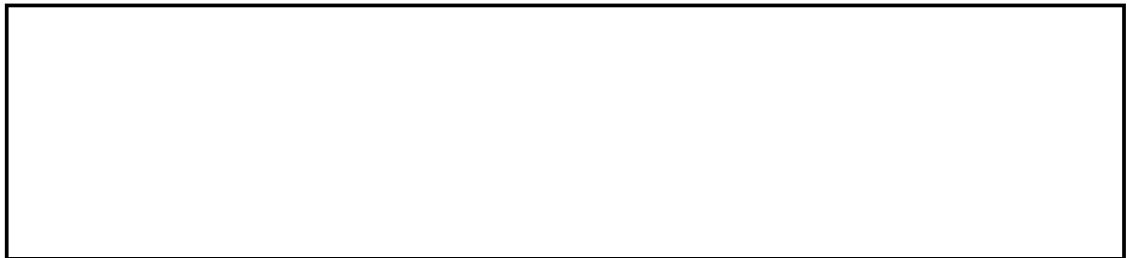
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- What are the prospects for Soviet influence in the Middle East? What are Soviets purposes and policies? What factors will govern whether the Soviets behave constructively or disruptively vis-a-vis peace negotiations?
  
  - What is the military balance in the Middle East, including the significance of Iraq and Libya?
  
  - Is Islamic radicalism likely to become dominant in any region of the Islamic world?
2. Korea: What are the incentives, constraints, and priorities that govern North Korea's pursuit of reunification? Are the prospects of war increasing or decreasing? What would be the indications of a North Korean intent to attack?

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4. Southern Africa:

- What are the prospects for non-violent change in South Africa? What factors will influence the outcome? What role will the non-whites play in South Africa?
  
- How will the Rhodesian situation evolve? In case of a settlement, what will be the major problems and prospects of a new government?

5. Horn of Africa: What are Soviet objectives in the Horn of Africa? How will the conflict there develop and with what consequences for Soviet, Cuban, and US interests?



7. Panama: What are the implications for the operation of the Panama Canal and for US relations with Latin America if the Canal Treaty is not ratified? What are the vulnerabilities of the Canal?