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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

HSG 1265/77

21 September 1977

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR:

IC Staff (OPP)

FROM : Acting CIA Representative on Definitions
Working Group

SUBJECT : Suggested List of Terms to be Defined

25X1 1. This responds to the invitation to suggest terms important to the Intelligence Community that should be included in the proposed IC Glossary. The following list is meant to be illustrative. It does not necessarily include all terms of potential interest to CIA, nor do we insist that all the terms suggested be included in the list finally published. The appropriate scope of the Glossary depends, among other things, on how it is intended to be used, by whom, and with what level of authority. These matters remain to be discussed.

25X1 2. Presumably the Glossary would include at least some of the terms unique to the Intelligence Community and also those common terms and labels that have a special meaning to the intelligence practitioners. While perhaps belaboring the obvious, we also would stress the need to seek and identify a balance between the "common usage" of intelligence terms and the need for greater precision in communication. The common understanding of terms frequently incorporates ambiguity; it is more or less easily accepted by various elements of the Community because it is familiar and/or because the ambiguity allows each user to interpret the term in a way that meets his needs. On the other hand, some efforts to reach new precision may result in definitions that either are not approved, not used, or used with great reluctance."

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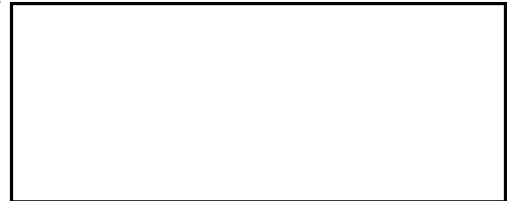
25X1 3. Please refer again to Dr. Stevens' memorandum dated 11 August for certain concerns about the list of terms circulated earlier by the IC Staff. Not all the kinds of intelligence listed are important enough in the Community context to merit inclusion in the Glossary. On the other hand, many activities such as those listed in the National "HUMINT" plan need to be included.

25X1 4. Common terms used in special ways should be considered: assess, assessment, evaluate, evaluation, collect, collection, process, produce, product, production, report, disseminate, dissemination, information, intelligence, source, review, sensitive, monitor, user, consumer, community, sources and methods, task, tasking, guidance, requirement, coordination, overt, covert, clandestine, warning, strategic, tactical, objectives, perspectives, defector, refugee, emigre, and estimate.

25X1 5. Terms and phrases with meanings perhaps unique to the Intelligence Community include: Acoustical Intelligence (ACOUSTINT), Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Electrical Intelligence (ELINT), Signals Intelligence (SIGINT), Human Source Intelligence (HUMINT), Overhead Imagery, Radar Intelligence (RADINT); National Intelligence Tactical Intelligence and perhaps Current Intelligence, Basic Intelligence, Military Intelligence, Economic Intelligence, Scientific and Technical Intelligence; clandestine collection, domestic collection, covert action, counter-intelligence, and the like.

25X1 6. Finally, there are certain organizations and documents that might be identified: the Intelligence Community, the NFIB, NFIP, NITC, NSCIDs, PRC, SCC, Executive Orders, DCI, DCIDs, Intelligence Perspectives, NIO, KIQs, DCID 1/2 Supplement, National Estimates, etc.

25X1 7. I will be happy to discuss these suggestions with you at our mutual convenience.



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25X1 [] attended the IC Staff meeting
25X1 on Intelligence Definitions that was chaired by
[] In response to an informal request,
Dave provided a list of terms that might be
included in a Community Glossary. At subsequent
meetings there will be discussions of what terms
actually require definition. Therefore, there will
be opportunity to shift and adjust before a list
is finalized. The next meeting is scheduled for
4 October.

25X1 [] is proceeding on the premise that a
Glossary will be prepared with the format and
content yet to be decided.

Add Dist:

25X1 CPS
 NIO

[]

[] Requirements & Evaluation Staff

Date 26 September 1977

National Intelligence Estimate: A thorough assessment of situations abroad that are relevant to the formulation of national security policy, projecting probable future course^s of action and developments, structured to illuminate policy issues and differences of view within the Intelligence Community, and issue by the DCI with the advice of NFIB.