

**NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD**

NFIB-22.1/66

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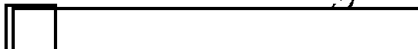
MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

FROM: John N. McMahon  
Acting Vice Chairman

SUBJECT: Key Intelligence Questions

1. The Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence is developing a list of issues for use by the NSC Policy Review Committee in defining and prioritizing substantive intelligence requirements in accordance with Presidential Directive 17.

2. Until such time as this list is available for Community dissemination and use, the Key Intelligence Questions for Fiscal Year 1977, NFIB D22.1/56, remain in effect.

   
John N. McMahon

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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

**Key Intelligence Questions**  
**For**  
**Fiscal Year 1977**

*Published by the Intelligence Community Staff  
for the Director of Central Intelligence  
with the Advice of the  
National Foreign Intelligence Board*

**Secret**

NFIB D 22.1/56  
October 1976

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Director Of Central Intelligence  
KEY INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS  
FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 1977

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Director of Central Intelligence

KEY INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS  
FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 1977

INTRODUCTION

The Key Intelligence Questions for Fiscal Year 1977, issued by the Director of Central Intelligence pursuant to his responsibilities under Executive Order 11905, represent a departure from past practice dictated by experience. The new list is short and highly selective, the questions having been chosen not only because of their importance to national consumers, but also because a real need for action by the Intelligence Community exists. The KIQs represent the DCI's guidance to all Intelligence Community collection and production managers on these selected subjects.

The Key Intelligence Questions continue to be formulated by the National Intelligence Officers. The primary purpose of the KIQs is to improve intelligence production and collection by providing a highly selective list of current, critical questions for a period of special operational attention. The purposeful limitation on the number of questions and their high degree of focus required that difficult choices be made from the many current high priority areas and questions. This required that certain issues or problems, although very important, be excluded. Also excluded were key problems of a critical nature which currently receive substantial and ongoing attention and which were not considered to require or lend themselves to Community action beyond that already underway. Examples are SAI and verification, the situation in the Middle East, as well as individual current weapon

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systems. Thus, the KIQs are a managerial device for focusing attention and increased effort on a small number of issues without altering the broader set of intelligence priorities.

The National Intelligence Officers, in collaboration with representatives of the NFIB agencies and with the advice of the Intelligence Community Staff and others as appropriate, will produce KIQ strategy reports aimed at developing special collection and analytical strategies to enhance the information gain and improve the analyses in each KIQ area of concern.

The performance of the Intelligence Community on the KIQs will initially be evaluated by the appropriate NIO to assess the effectiveness of the actions taken. Further evaluations will be undertaken as part of a regular Intelligence Community Staff program which assesses the timeliness and quality of the intelligence products in terms of the requirements of major users.

The KIQs and their performance evaluations cannot provide systematic inputs for resource allocation decisions by program managers due to their limited number, specificity, and emphasis on current operations. However, they can provide valuable insights for programming and planning. It is important to note that the KIQs do not derive their priorities from those appearing at the attachment to DCID 1/2, *US Foreign Intelligence Priorities for Fiscal Years 1977-1981*. Broad national intelligence planning priorities are based on a perspective of the foreign environment for the planning period and not on current operational needs.

Additions, deletions, or modifications to the Key Intelligence Questions may be issued from time to time during FY 1977, depending on major changes in the international situation or if the foreign intelligence environment should dictate. The order in which the FY 1977 questions are listed should not be regarded as implying an internal priority: by definition all the Key Intelligence Questions are of major importance, and are singled out for special operational attention.

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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