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10 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Services Staff

25X1A FROM : [Redacted] Chief, Classification Review Division

25X1A SUBJECT : Funding of the [Redacted] Activity

25X1A 1. I want to express my particular concern about the lack of funding for the [Redacted] activity for FY 81, and would appreciate your good efforts on our behalf, in your presentation at the Third Quarter 1980 DDCI Goals Program Review, to emphasize the need for allocating funds to continue the program. Considering the circumstances of this activity, it seems to be penny wise and pound foolish to discontinue the program at this time, if there is any suggestion of doing so.

a. The continuing high interest in this period of history in general and the intelligence game in particular ensures that we will continue to be pressured to review this collection for declassification and release to scholars, researchers, and the general public.

b. Working from the statistics supplied to you for the Review, we estimate that the OSS Review Team, at the current production rate, will complete its review by the relatively near term of mid-1982, particularly if the Team's strength is rebuilt to 15 members. This momentum will be lost if the program is discontinued.

c. The unique nature of the collection (documenting a wartime intelligence activity no longer in existence) requires uncommon experience and substantive knowledge which, after all, has justified the contract. All the Team members have extensive intelligence experience dating back to early periods, some including service in the OSS. This special knowledge will become lost irretrievably to the Agency with passing time.

d. The Team has received extensive training in, has built up a body of guidelines and procedures for, and has developed special expertise in the processing of the material, especially as pertains to that information requiring continued protection. Further, the Team has become familiar with DO perspectives and requirements through its contacts with DO personnel. All of this would be lost if the Team were disbanded. Review of this material at some later date by a retrained (therefore more costly) team of inevitably lesser background and training will increase the odds of our releasing information which will be potentially damaging. (C)

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2. In sum, we have in the present OSS Review Team the most cost effective, efficient, and secure instrument available to conduct the classification review of the OSS permanent records. To discontinue the activity at this time would be foolish, for to reestablish the effort at a later date, as I believe we would have to do on whatever scale, would be accomplished only at a substantial increase in cost at a considerable loss of effectiveness and security. (U)



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