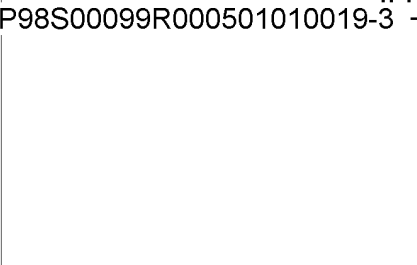2 May 1979
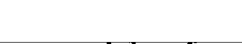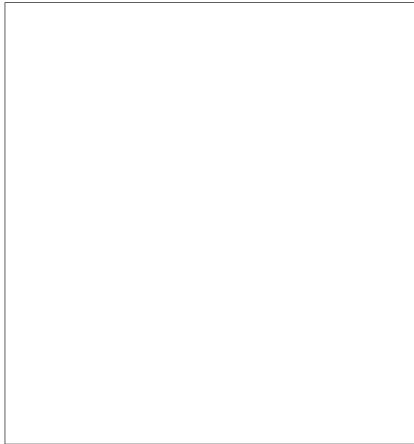
MEMORANDUM FOR:

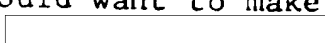Chief, Requirements and
Evaluation Staff/NFAC

SUBJECT : Detecting Political and Social Changes

1. At your suggestion, I have consulted with Professor
_____ at Princeton about suitable academics to
assemble for a discussion of methods for detecting political
and social change of consequence for estimative efforts.

- Princeton (Africa)
- Chicago (Middle East)
- Univ. of Washington (India)
- Pennsylvania (India)
- Harvard (Brazil)
- UC Berkeley (Far East)
- UCLA (Africa)
- SAIS (Urban Violence)
- Yale (Southeast Asia)
- Yale (Latin America)
- Wisconsin (Zaire)
- Princeton (Egypt)
- Chicago (Africa)

2. All of these people are experts on general problems
of political development as well as area specialists.

3. I do not know whether or not they would want to make
themselves available. I happen to know that _____
once turned down the CIA on consultation. I also know
definitely that there would be no problem on this ground
with _____

Senior Review Panel

STAT

25X1

S E C R E T

cc to SRP members,
4/20/79

18 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: [   ]   25X1
                Senior Review Panel

FROM   : [   ]   25X1
                Chief, Requirements and
                Evaluation Staff/NFAC

SUBJECT   : Detecting Political and Social Changes

1.   The Intelligence Community recently has suffered con-
siderable criticism about its ability to detect significant
social and political changes in several countries. The most
recent examples have been the PDRY, Afghanistan, and Iran. The
unsophisticated critics of the craft of intelligence probably ex-
pect too much from us in this regard but, at the same time, there
is a wide-spread feeling in the Intelligence community that we
could do better than our recent track record.

2.   The D/DCI/NFA recently requested that I look into
this problem with emphasis upon:

      - defining popular movements, political instability,
        social movements portending change and instability

      - formulating specific collection requirements for
        use by field collectors

      - determining feasibility of collecting useful infor-
        mation on social/political change

      - developing a model for such a collection program

      - selecting a country where we could test the model
        either by simulation or with a pilot collection
        program.

                                                                        25X1

S E C R E T

3. Please review the attached draft work plan with your colleagues and then we could exchange some ideas. After reviewing the work plan, I contemplate discussing it with Bob Bowie before involving other people.

4. This memorandum and its attachment are classified Secret.

Attachment:
  As stated

DRAFT WORK PLAN

I. Establish core group to follow project from beginning to end:

-- Representatives from OPA, DDO, OCR, FBIS, State, and
Senior Review Panel.

-- Discuss information potentially available, Sources,
applicability of available information to intelligence
problems, timeliness of potential information.

-- Assemble list of academics who have done pertinent
research in methodologies related to determining social/
political change and those who have done country/regional
analysis of social and political change.

II. Reports from academics specializing in social/political change:

-- Group meetings on this subject should be sponsored by
State to avoid public CIA involvement.

-- Selected academics, those of special interest and appro-
priately cleared, could meet under CIA auspices if we
need to hold in-depth discussions.

III. Core group reviews results of consultations with academics:

-- Sift academic experience for common themes and methodologies.

-- Identify academic successes and failures.

-- Relate academic techniques to operational environment and
collection opportunities.

-- Relate potential information to production requirements.

IV. Core group selects one or two countries for testing its findings.

S E C R E T