

ER 89-2589/2

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

25 September 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: NFIC and NFIB Principals

SUBJECT: Community Responsibility for Counterterrorism
and Counterintelligence


I have decided to place the responsibilities of the NIO for Foreign Denial and Intelligence Activities and the NIO for Counterterrorism into the Counterintelligence Center and the Counterterrorism Center respectively and to abolish these NIO functions in the National Intelligence Council effective 25 September. This decision brings arrangements for managing the Community aspects of these accounts into line with the arrangement I decided upon when establishing the Counternarcotics Center. Final responsibility for preparing national estimates in all three areas continues to lie in the NIC, chiefly with its regional NIOs who will rely on the analytical resources of the centers as well as your agencies for inputs and drafters.

I have reached this decision on the recommendation of the Chairman, NIC, after discussing it with some of you and hearing his report on more extensive consultations with many of you or your subordinates.

The chief reason for this move is to place the responsibility for knitting together Intelligence Community performance in counterterrorism and counterintelligence directly into the organizations on which I rely to fulfill my responsibilities in these increasingly vital areas. I want the Community to plug in where the action occurs; and I have no doubt that both Community cooperation and the interests of your agencies will be better served by doing so.

I am aware that some of you have reservations as to whether Community concerns can be adequately addressed by this new arrangement. I am convinced they can be and am determined that they will be, to which end I have:

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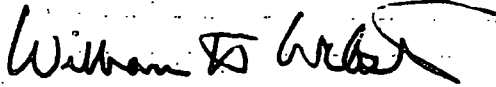
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Designated all the centers as DCI centers and titled their chiefs special assistants to the DCI (although they will remain administratively in their present subordination).

Instructed the center chiefs to assign Community responsibilities to appropriately senior officers with adequate staff, to solicit from you candidates to fill these and other positions in the centers, and to consult with you or your representatives on the guidance for meeting their Community responsibilities.

Designing specific new arrangements for the centers to perform as they should and making them work may require some experimentation and evolution, for which I ask your active support. In nine months to a year, I expect to review with you how we have done.



William H. Webster

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