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Summary of DCI's Authority re Activities of NIRB.

On the basis of the National Security Act of 1947 and subsequent NSC Directives dealing with foreign intelligence activities, the Director, CIA, has the following authority in matters relevant to INR's role and to the NIRB.

1. The CIA (the DCI) has the primary responsibility for all US clandestine activities abroad, excluding US possessions.
2. The NSC Act of 1947 created the CIA and directed it to advise the NSC on matters of concern to security of the nation, including recommendations for coordinating all intelligence activities. At the same time, however, it authorized other departments and agencies to continue "collecting, evaluating, correlating and disseminating departmental (SIC) intelligence."
3. An NSC directive of January 18, 1961, spells out the general division of labor between the principal agencies concerned; e.g., "State shall have primarily responsibility for and shall perform as a service of common concern the collection abroad of political, sociological, economic, scientific and technical information." The DOD was given primary responsibility for the collection of foreign military intelligence.
4. In a letter from the President dated January 16, 1962, the DCI was told to "assume the proper coordination, correlation and evaluation of intelligence from all sources....and to serve as Chairman of the US Intelligence Board, USIB, with a view to assuring the efficient and effective operation of the Board and associated bodies...."
5. This letter also states that "along with the heads of other Departments and Agencies concerned the DCI has been directed also to maintain a continuing review of all the programs and activities of all US Agencies engaged in foreign intelligence activities with a view to assuring efficiency and effectiveness and to avoiding undesirable duplication."
6. Under an NSC Directive, revised on March 4, 1964, the DCI authority to coordinate all foreign intelligence activities is re-confirmed. This directive also calls for the USIB "to provide more effective integration and guidance..." and to make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on intelligence matters within the jurisdiction of the Director, NSA. This directive also empowers the DCI to "make such surveys of departmental intelligence activities of the various departments or agencies concerned as he may deem necessary in connection with his duty to advise the NSC and to coordinate the over-all intelligence effort. ...the DCI shall ensure that the pertinence, extent and quality of available foreign intelligence relating to national security is continually reviewed as a basis for improving the quality of intelligence and the correction of deficiencies."

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7. In sum, the DCI is the President's and the NSC's principal adviser on foreign intelligence problems, including how we are or are not properly using our intelligence resources.

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