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Authority NLE 2011-67 #3

By MMK NLDDE Date 12/30/13

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With the PresidentARA:krg
3/4/60

SUBJECT: Fifth Report to the President by the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities dated 11 December 1959. (Recommendation Regarding "National Intelligence Priorities")

1. The Hull Board's report of December 11, 1959, included the following recommendation:

"It is recommended that a realistic appraisal of our priority national intelligence objectives be undertaken on an urgent basis; and that the Intelligence Community's emphasis on collection objectives be redirected to insure that primary emphasis and support are given by the entire Community to the fulfillment of our most critical national intelligence collection programs, as distinguished from fulfillment of departmental intelligence requirements of lesser importance to the national security."

The considerations involved in the Board's recommendation were as follows:

(1) the development of significant data on the [redacted] is of overriding importance to the national security; and (2) [redacted] because (a) certain elements of the intelligence community place undue emphasis on departmental (rather than national) intelligence requirements, and (b) because of the approach being taken to establish and carry out the most meaningful national intelligence priorities.

2. Before taking action on this recommendation, the President asked that the views of the DCI be obtained. These views have now been furnished by the DCI in memorandum dated March 1, 1960, the highlights of which are as follows:

a. All members of the intelligence community are deeply concerned over their inability to identify and describe [redacted] and no member agency would subordinate this urgent problem to the pursuit of a "parochial interest".

b. This subject has had First Priority since the Priority National Intelligence Objectives were instituted in 1954.

c. The lack of success in this area is not due to any failure to establish priorities. The failure is attributable to the inherent [redacted]

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difficulties of the problem, and to the fact that the most promising and effective source of hard intelligence on this subject must be used sparingly because of the risks involved (in this regard, a breakthrough is being sought through intensive research and analysis, with some progress already made).

d. Priority National Intelligence Objectives are under continuing review and were recently revised. Once established, these priority objectives must be translated into specific collection requirements, and determinations made as to the allocation of collection resources to particular tasks, which presents a particular problem with regard to NSA. (There is now in progress a study of the proper allocation of NSA resources in relation to the many requirements levied on NSA).

e. Accordingly, based on these various factors referred to by the DCI, he recommends that the President defer action on the Hull Board's recommendation pending a further report which will be made to the Board at its next meeting.

Suggestion

3. Based on the DCI's comments in his memorandum of March 1, 1960, it would appear proper to concur in his proposal that the President defer action on this Hull Board recommendation, because (a) the Priority National Intelligence Objectives have been revised subsequent to submission of the Board's recommendation, and (b) the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for the near future, thereby permitting further consideration of the subject without undue delay.

4. Accordingly it is suggested that the President be briefed on the highlights of the DCI's memorandum of March 1, 1960, and that the President approve an action along the following lines:

Noted the memorandum submitted by the Director of Central Intelligence on March 1, 1960, concerning the subject recommendation, and requested that (a) the Director of Central Intelligence report to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities concerning current developments relating to the recommendation, including the recommendation that emphasis be redirected to insure that primary emphasis is placed on critical national intelligence collection programs; and (b) the Board continue to keep abreast of this subject and report to the President thereon as deemed appropriate.

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