

USCIB: 9.3/22

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28 December 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIBEC:

Subject: USCIB Master Requirements List.

Reference: USCIB 9.3/19 dated 16 December 1954.

The enclosure is forwarded with a view to consideration in connection with the reference at the Special Meeting of USCIBEC to be held on Friday, 7 January 1954.

H. D. Jones
H. D. JONES

Deputy Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosure

Supplementary Details
Proposed for Consideration
with USCIB 9.3/19

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SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS PROPOSED FOR
CONSIDERATION WITH USCIB 9.3/19

1. It should be noted, in order to avoid confusion, that the word "collection" as used in the reference, means "the process of collecting (obtaining) intelligence information by any of several methods, including COMINT" and not "the collection of raw material to be used in COMINT processing".

2. The Director of NSA has two basic responsibilities in the COMINT field:

a. To maintain, in the U.S. COMINT-producing activities, a technical posture which will enable him to attack effectively any problem which he may be assigned, and

b. to dispose the resources available to him in such a manner as will best satisfy the requirements of the U.S. COMINT-consuming activities for intelligence information from COMINT sources.

3. USCIB has the responsibility for either determining, or obtaining a determination from the IAC level, what the collective requirements of the COMINT-consuming activities are for both national and departmental intelligence information from COMINT sources; for insuring that these are in consonance with National Intelligence objectives; for evaluating each requirement in terms of its importance and of the necessity that it be partially or completely fulfilled by COMINT operations; and for issuing authoritative guidance to the Director, NSA, in terms of what they require of him, and the relative importance of each requirement.

4. The guidance received by the Director, NSA, from USCIB must meet seven criteria:

a. It must be based on, and be modified when necessary to conform to, the most recent expression of National Intelligence objectives.

b. It should not include objectives or requirements which are beyond, or not appropriate to, COMINT's potential capability to satisfy.

c. It should give greater weight to those requirements which COMINT has a unique potential capability to provide.

d. It should subordinate the importance priority of those requirements for which COMINT is primarily of corroborative value.

e. It should not include those requirements which can be satisfactorily met by other intelligence sources.

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f. It must be expressed in terms which are readily translatable into COMINT terms of reference.

g. It should not require frequent revision because of temporary shifts in priority or "crash" type requirements. •

5. In case the IAC does not issue a National Intelligence Requirements List, the basic authoritative guidance finally received by the Director, NSA, from USCIB would be in the form of two documents: a COMINT Objectives List, and a COMINT Requirements List. The former would be no longer than the basic National Intelligence Objectives List, but would be re-arranged in accordance with the appropriate criteria cited in para. 4 above. It would list the COMINT objectives in as nearly absolute priority order as possible, together with an indication of the relative importance attached to each. Should a National Intelligence Requirements List be issued by IAC, the COMINT Objectives List would not be required.

6. The COMINT Requirements List would be either a carefully edited expansion of the COMINT Objectives List, or a rearrangement of the National Intelligence Requirements List in accordance with the criteria listed in para. 4 above. Each requirement would be expressed in terms of the elements of information required in order that the objective be attained. Only those elements deemed to be vital to attaining the objective would carry the same priority and importance as the objective itself; elements not contributing directly and importantly to its accomplishment would be assigned a lower priority and lesser weight, each on its own merits. Such departmental or agency requirements as are not satisfied by requirements derived from the COMINT Objectives List would be added, each in its appropriate priority order and properly weighted. Departmental requirements should be identified as such (para. 10c of USCIB 9.3/19). Each requirement must be so worded and defined as to be readily and accurately translatable into the terms of reference used in COMINT collection, production, and processing. In this latter stage of development of the Requirements List, there must be close consultation between the intelligence community and the COMINT producers, in order that the list be both semantically and taxonomically compatible with the needs of each. The COMINT Requirements List would be revised as required by each revision of the COMINT Objectives List; but, in case such revision did not occur, the List should be reviewed by USCIB at least annually.

7. Although difficult, it is considered practicable to arrange the requirements in order of priority of importance. To assign each an absolute weight would be an unrealistic goal. However, it is essential that some mechanism be employed which will enable the Director, NSA, to

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interpret as accurately as possible the relative amount of importance which the consumers attach to each requirement. Some system of categorizing each bloc of requirements, after arrangement in priority order, must be found. It is considered that a minimum of three such categories are required, and it is recommended that these be:

a. That bloc of information which is of such transcendent importance that, given a reasonable expectation of obtaining it, would warrant allocating to it all of the COMINT resources which are available for production of intelligence information.

b. Those requirements which are of sufficient importance to warrant allocation of COMINT resources to them at the expense of any or all requirements of a lower category.

c. Those which warrant only such effort as cannot be applied with reasonable expectation of early profitable returns, to items of higher priority.

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