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*Mr. MacCarthy*

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13 September 1948

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE 3/2

POLICY GOVERNING DEPARTMENTAL CONCURRENCES  
IN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Pursuant to the provisions of National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3 and paragraph 5 of National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 1, and for clarity and uniformity in the preparation of concurrences in, or dissents from, national intelligence reports and estimates, the following policies are established:

1. Purpose. Departmental participation in the preparation of national intelligence reports and estimates is undertaken to insure that authorized recipients:

a. are presented with national intelligence which comprises all the best available expert knowledge and opinion;

b. are aware, in the case of disputed points, of the views of the departments on substantive matters within their special fields of responsibility and interest.

2. Basis of Comments. In consideration of any individual national intelligence report or estimate, departmental agencies should take action, as promptly as possible, in one of the following ways:

a. concur;

b. concur with comment;

c. dissent.

These actions should be based upon consideration of the following factors:

(1) factual errors;

(2) validity of conclusions reached;

(3) omission of relevant considerations;

(4) matters of emphasis which produce misleading implications.

d. Return the paper with the statement that the agency has no comment.

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DCI 3/2

13 September 1948

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~~DCI 3/2~~

13 September 1948

3. Concurrences. When there is no disagreement with the paper and no comments felt to be of sufficient importance for formal submission, a simple concurrence should be returned. Such a statement may be limited to the aspects of the paper pertinent to the special interests of the intelligence organization concerned.

4. Concurrence with Comment.

a. A comment does not qualify or limit the concurrence in any respect but is a suggestion designed to strengthen the substance of a national intelligence report or estimate. While comments are in any case optional and usually should be limited to subjects within the special fields of interest of the departmental agencies, each agency may submit comments on subjects or points outside of its special fields of interest if it should elect to do so.

b. It is not necessary to comment on a national intelligence report or estimate merely from an editorial point of view on matters of punctuation, phraseology, or grammatical construction which do not materially change the meaning of the estimate.

5. Dissents.

a. The purpose of a published dissent, aside from giving each intelligence organization an opportunity to record its position, is to assist readers in reaching full understanding of a question.

b. When a dissent is published, the recipient is, by implication, asked to choose the view he finds convincing. Unless the dissent is clear-cut and based on an unresolvable difference of opinion concerning an issue of major importance, recipients may be confused rather than aided by it.

c. Consequently, a dissent published with a national intelligence paper should present a distinct difference of opinion on which CIA and the dissenting intelligence organization have found it impossible to agree.

d. A disagreement should not become a dissent unless the dissenting intelligence organization believes that the reader will otherwise reach conclusions which are false or dangerously misleading.

-2-

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~~DCI 3/2~~

13 September 1948

~~SECRET~~

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DCI 3/2

13 September 1948

6. No Comment. Should an intelligence organization feel that the subject treated is entirely apart from its interests, it may return a statement indicating that it has no comment of any kind to offer.

*R. H. Hillenkoetter*

R. H. HILLENKOETTER

Director of Central Intelligence

-3+

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DCI 3/2

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