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INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1 August 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

SUBJECT: Direct Provision of Intelligence Information by the National Security Agency to the National Indications Center

1. The Intelligence Advisory Committee, acting upon the recommendation of its Watch Committee, on 26 July 1955, authorized the National Indications Center to receive certain intelligence information directly from the National Security Agency.

2. The direct transmission from NSA to the NIC will be governed by the following terms of reference:

a. The NIC is authorized to receive directly from NSA critical items of information or intelligence containing indications of Soviet/Communist intentions to initiate hostilities and appearing to be so urgent as to warrant earliest consideration by the Watch Committee, and the Watch Committee is authorized to furnish detailed guidance to NSA and to review at intervals the volume of information transmitted under these terms of reference.

b. The direct dissemination of such items from the NSA to the NIC shall be as nearly as possible simultaneous with, but shall not take precedence over, NSA dissemination to its regular consumer agencies.

c. The purpose of this authorization is to enable the NIC, as soon as possible after such critical and urgent items become available to NSA, to accomplish a preliminary evaluation and collation with other available indications in time for the earliest possible consideration by the Watch Committee; but, as the staff supporting the Watch Committee, the NIC itself is not directly responsible for alerting the highest authorities of the government to the receipt of such critical and urgent items.

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d. Regular dissemination of NSA products direct to the NIC is neither required nor authorized, since (1) the normal operation of the NIC as the staff supporting the Watch Committee is based, according to the terms of reference, primarily upon information and intelligence screened and forwarded by the IAC agencies, together with their evaluations where appropriate, (2) the NIC is staffed to operate on that basis and not as a self-contained intelligence agency, and (3) the NIC was not established to duplicate the functions of the several IAC agencies which normally receive direct dissemination of NSA products.

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Secretary

Copies to:
Chairman, Watch Committee of the IAC
Director, National Security Agency
Executive Secretary, US Communications Intelligence Board

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