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13 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: COINS Project Manager

SUBJECT : CIA COINS Subsystem Status Report

1. As you know, the CIA subsystem of the COINS network is not operating in a reliable manner. The problem involves COINS communications software design as it relates to a time-sharing system such as CIA's. As a result of this problem, CIA has been losing segments (data) transmitted via the COINS network. If COINS goes into an operational mode utilizing the current switching technique, the communications software should be redesigned, not just to alleviate CIA's problem, but to provide a more efficient, reliable system for all participants.

2. In order to minimize and perhaps overcome the above problem, CIA has again modified its 2701 Data Adaptor Unit. Initial testing following this modification has been encouraging, i.e., it appears that the likelihood of our losing data has been reduced. Additional testing and program modification will be required before we can definitely say that the system is operating efficiently enough to actively participate in the operational test scheduled to begin on 1 October 1969.

3. In addition to the 2701 modification discussed above, CIA can, if necessary, further improve its system reliability by operating in a dedicated mode during its participation in COINS (0800-1000 daily). That is, only COINS terminals would be allowed to access the time sharing system during the 0800-1000 period. This would be a last resort step to meet the 1 October deadline.

4. Looking toward the future (early 1970), our Office of Computer Services (OCS) is studying the feasibility of obtaining a data concentrator which would function as an intermediary communications handler between remote

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SUBJECT: CIA COINS Subsystem Status Report (cont'd)

terminals and communication circuits such as COINS and the 360/67 computer. The decision to obtain this equipment will be determined independent of COINS considerations, but if it is acquired, we estimate that it would solve the COINS communications problems that we are currently encountering.

5. In summation - in order to try to meet the 1 October test deadline, we have modified our 2701 and we are encouraged with the result. We have one further immediate option open, i.e., dedicate our system to COINS for two hours each day. Longer term solutions consist of modifying the COINS communications system design and/or incorporation of a data concentrator in the CIA system.



CIA COINS Subsystem Manager

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