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1 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

THROUGH : Director of Planning, Programing  
and Budgeting

SUBJECT : Agency Implementation Planning for  
Community On-Line Intelligence  
System (COINS)

REFERENCE : A. Executive Director-Comptroller  
memo for Deputy Directors,  
dtd 18 May 1966, subject: "CIA  
Participation in Community  
On-Line Intelligence System  
(COINS)."

B. COINS Committee, "COINS Imple-  
mentation Plan," Report to  
CODIB, dtd 25 May 1966.

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 8 relating to the Agency's participation in the COINS activity.

2. Reference A. provides guidance pertaining to the Agency's role in implementing the President's desire for improved real-time communication of information between components of the Intelligence Community. This memorandum summarizes the efforts of the CIA Task Force on COINS to date in planning the implementation of the first phase of this activity.

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3. With your approval, the CIA participation in COINS I will consist of the following:

a. Inclusion of five active Agency files (listed and described in Attachment A). For the most part, these files are now under machine control and can readily be made compatible with the planned COINS programs and communications specifications.

b. Secure electronic connection

[Redacted]

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c. Generation of query and real-time control programs

[Redacted]

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d. Familiarization and training of Agency personnel in the use of the system,

[Redacted]

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4. Accomplishment of the above implementation task is feasible by January 1967. This schedule and the extent of Agency participation is in harmony with the recommendations contained in reference B.

5. To a large extent, the implementation tasks are an extension of independently derived, but related, activities already planned or underway in the Agency. A general description of these activities is given in Attachment C. The costs identified for implementing COINS I are those over and above existing Agency programs. This is estimated to be approximately [Redacted] for FY 1967. Attachment D contains a breakdown of the costs and responsible components.

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6. The second phase of COINS is planned to begin in FY 1968. This appears optimistic; the problems involved in the shakedown and evaluation of the initial phase and the design of an effective follow-on system are considerable. The COINS II goals are:

- a. Remote access computers with automatic scheduling features installed in each agency.
- b. A uniform method of querying all files in the system, including the use of consistent entries for data elements and a single query exchange language.
- c. A data store and forward switch, installed in CIA, to service messages securely at high speeds between the computers in the system.

Estimates of the Agency resources needed to achieve these goals vary widely, depending on the particular design yet to be chosen. For example, programming manpower needed to implement the query exchange language will depend on whether the language chosen is similar to any then available to CIA computers. Similarly, a wide range of methods could be used in implementing the store and forward switch requirement. With the following assumptions:

- a. COINS I will continue to operate through December 1967.
- b. Manpower will continue to be required at least at the COINS I level indefinitely.
- c. Other Headquarters terminals connected to the OCS computer will have access to COINS files, i.e., no others will be needed.
- d. Several CIA files will be added to the system.

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e. The concept of a central store and forward switch as described in reference B. is valid.

the costs in FY 1968 will be approximately [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and, in FY 1969, [REDACTED]

7. It should be noted that the climate within the Agency is one of caution rather than enthusiasm. Consequently, the effort proposed for COINS I could be characterized as minimal. The experimental nature of this activity needs to be emphasized; while the payoff could ultimately be great, overselling the COINS concept and overcommitting ourselves now should be avoided.

8. It is recommended that the Agency commit itself to the degree of COINS I participation summarized in paragraph 3 above, and that [REDACTED] be allocated in FY 1967 to carry out this portion of the program.

CHARLES A. BRIGGS  
Acting Chairman  
CIA Task Force on COINS

Attachments (4): a/s

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