

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

27 December 1967

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SUBJECT: Minutes of COINS Committee Meeting of 15 December 1967.


1. The COINS Committee met at NPIC on 15 December 1967. Attending were:



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2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 1 December were reviewed and approved.

- a.  clarified the NSA review completed paragraph 6 on the extent of NSA contractor study of data retrieval languages. The NSA contractor is concerned with a study of all known user oriented languages, capabilities, advantages and disadvantages, etc. and formulation of recommendations for NSA on their use. As a part of this study, the contractor will include COINS participating agency languages in being or planned (NSA TILE, CIA TORQUE, DIA Formatted File System retrieval language). The study will not result in recommendations for COINS adoption of any language, but will provide a comparison of the different languages of the system for consideration by the COINS Committee in determining a course of action on this subject.

- b. Relative to the above and reference paragraph 7,  working within the framework of the Computer and Communications Interface Panel, will continue his study of development of a common network data retrieval language for COINS. This concept envisions the following:

- (1) Users at COINS participating agencies would frame interrogations of COINS files at distant agencies in the local retrieval language.

- (2) The local remote access computer system would have a library translator program to translate the local language into the network language.


- (3) At the receiving agency the translator program translates the network language into the local language for retrieval operations.

- (4) This concept would require each agency to write one translator program. Undesirable alternatives are:

- (a) Users learning and applying the language of each of the other COINS agencies.

- (b). Each agency provide the software to translate the local language into the language of the agency being interrogated.

- c. Reference paragraph 3 relative to TMA No. 1 on COINS Communications.

- (1)  indicated CIA concurrence in TMA No. 1.

DIA Review
Completed.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

25X1 (2) [] stated that NSA communications personnel were of the belief that COINS communications circuits should be schedule 4B vice 4C as stated in paragraph 2; and that NSA requested that paragraph C be changed to state that speeds above 2400 BPS will not be considered prior to FY-70. The former problem has been referred to [] DIA for resolution.

25X1 3. [] presented a memorandum (copy inclosed) on the subject of establishment of security classification levels for COINS. Members were requested to review the classification levels proposed, and to be prepared to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

4. A proposed TMA providing general guidance to COINS Panels concerned with data base requirements was presented for committee consideration.

5. Final copies of Part 1 of the COINS Semiannual report were distributed to those attending. The balance of copies for each agency and Part 2 (in publication) will be distributed through courier channels.

25X1 6. [] reported the first exchange of user training classes between NSA and DIA. [] will arrange a meeting with [] of DIA to discuss further training courses to be conducted, and improvement of the courses. [] wishes to monitor the next classes conducted.

25X1 7. [] urged committee members to determine agency reaction to the files planned for COINS I, what is required to better satisfy requirements, what additional data elements might be required, etc.

25X1 8. [] distributed copies of an NSA draft proposal for COINS development and management by means of an Executive Agent and Agency COINS Manager system. Basically, the COINS Executive Agency would be designated by a DCID. The director of the agency named would appoint an Executive Agent for system management, and a COINS Manager for that agency. Each of the other participating agencies would name COINS Managers. The host agency would provide all support services; the Executive Agent would plan, coordinate and manage the system; the COINS Managers would assist the Executive Agent and coordinate all activities within their respective agency. The proposal is currently being studied by NSA legal and comptroller personnel who are preparing briefs to be made available shortly.

Efforts to arrive at a solution for efficient and effective COINS management are most important, particularly in view of the fact that such a major interagency undertaking is without precedent and may serve as a prototype for future systems.

25X1 9. [] described an AMPLEX video document retrieval system to be installed by NSA. Anyone interested in learning more about the system can be briefed.

10. Conduct of a "workshop" on the subject of computer networks is being considered by NSA. COINS Committee members were asked to consider interest in the workshop and extent of participation.

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11. Copies of the second draft of COINS Situation papers No. 1-4 and the first draft of No. 5 were distributed for consideration and comment.

12. Members are requested to provide lists of the character sets and codes utilized in the computer and terminal equipment of their system.

13. The next committee meeting is scheduled at 1000 hours, 5 January 1968, at NSA. Members are requested to be prepared to comment and discuss the following:

- a. Proposed TMA on "Guide for COINS File Panels.
- b. Proposed management system.
- c. COINS security levels.
- d. Computer network workshop.



Executive Secretary

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