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14 November 1968

COINS LOG

Source: on 12-13 November 1968

SUBJECT: The Equipment Switches Underway at NSA, CIA, & DIA

1. He understood DIA was currently (this week) converting a 1410 to a 360/50 for their main COINS computer and a 7740 to a 360/30 for the switch, with no interruption in the system expected. NSA was planning to switch from a 490 to a 494 for their main COINS computer in January or February (which he felt in computer language meant March) with no interruption. He was also skeptical about the no interruption, as he had heard that massive software changes were involved in the conversion.

2. CIA was planning to change from the 360/50 to 360/67 in February (he was pretty certain it was early February) and would be out of COINS for a week (at least). I mentioned DIRNSA's letter to the DCI asking for a slippage in the COINS experiment from 1 January 1969 to 1 April 1969 -- did he think considering all these equipment changes and their associated problems that 1 April was late enough? He thought they might possibly make 1 April -- felt the most serious problems were at NSA where a severe queuing problem (as high as 350 queries in a row) had made it almost impossible for a COINS query to be answered. I asked if

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Source: [] 12 November 1968 (telephone conversation)
Subject: The Effect of Gen. Carter's Request on the Test &
Analysis Panel's time table

Helen had not yet received her copy of Gen. Carter's request (one sent on the 13th), but I reviewed the time span concerned. Without saying that six months was an inadequate period for her purposes, she did say that her group needed several months to check out their own data forms and procedures. She really wanted to get started before the equipment switchover (for shakedown purposes), but NSA had been cool to that suggestion -- she had been told that NSA could not participate in the COINS T&A phase "in an active way" until they got on the 494. That only left her about three months after shakedown -- was that sufficient for a fair trial for the system? She didn't think so.

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Source: [] 14 November 1968
Subject: DIA conversion to new equipment for COINS

DIA was on the air on the 8th of November (rather than the 4th) with both the new 360/50 main computer and the 360/30 switch. As far as the switch was concerned, they'd keep the 7740 through the 15th, then turn it in as surplus. However, NSA was not yet able to make use of the switch, because they as yet had not

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