

**\*\*MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD\*\***

**\*\*CLASSIFICATION:\*\*** TOP SECRET // ORCON / NOFORN / FGI [USA/FVEY]

**\*\*HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS:\*\*** Dissemination Strictly Controlled - Access Limited to Named Recipients and Cleared Personnel with Validated Need-to-Know

**\*\*FROM:\*\*** Director, Office of Special Projects (Executive Liaison)

**\*\*COGNIZANT AUTHORITY:\*\*** National Security Council Directive [REDACTED]

**\*\*THRU:\*\*** Designated Secure Channel - [REDACTED]

**\*\*TO:\*\*** Ms. Sandra Warren, Chief Executive Officer, Vespucci Solutions International (VSI)

**\*\*CC:\*\*** Vice President, Government Services, Vespucci Solutions International

**\*\*DATE:\*\*** 05 November 2023

**\*\*SUBJECT:\*\*** Directive for Strategic Assessment and Development of Contingency Proposals Regarding Northern Border Stability Dynamics (Ref: Interagency Agreement #IAA-NSC-2020-18A; VSI Contract #USA-ISC-2021-047B Task Order 11)

**\*\*1. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE:\*\***

a. Pursuant to the authorities vested by National Security Presidential Memorandum [REDACTED] and executed under the administrative framework of the referenced Interagency Agreement and VSI Contract Task Order 11, Vespucci Solutions International (hereinafter referred to as "VSI" or "the Contractor") is hereby directed to initiate a comprehensive strategic assessment and develop associated contingency proposals concerning the evolving political, economic, and social landscape within Canada.

b. This directive stems from increasing concern among cognizant U.S. Government departments and agencies regarding potential long-term instability vectors impacting regional security and U.S. national interests. This initiative shall be internally referred to as the "Northern Border Stability Initiative."

**\*\*2. BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT:\*\***

a. Recent multi-source intelligence analyses, corroborated by diplomatic reporting, indicate emergent and potentially accelerating trends toward political fragmentation, resource nationalism, and socio-economic divergence within Canada. Specific concerns include, but are not limited to, challenges to federal authority, separatist movements gaining traction, and the potential for foreign influence operations exploiting internal divisions.

b. These trends, if allowed to mature without proactive mitigation, could pose significant risks to established U.S. strategic interests. These interests encompass the security of shared critical infrastructure, reliable access to vital natural resources and energy supplies, the integrity of integrated economic markets, and the overall stability and predictability of the North American security architecture.

**\*\*3. SCOPE OF WORK AND REQUIRED DELIVERABLES:\*\***

a. VSI is directed to leverage its full-spectrum analytical capabilities, proprietary methodologies, and operational expertise to conduct a detailed strategic assessment. This assessment shall, at a minimum:

i. Identify and analyze key political, economic, social, and regional vulnerabilities within Canada susceptible to influence or exploitation.

ii. Map influential actors, networks (formal and informal), and potential catalysts for significant political or economic realignment. Include assessments of leadership intentions and capabilities.

iii. Analyze potential future scenarios (short, medium, long-term) based on current trends, including worst-case outcomes impacting U.S. interests.

iv. Evaluate the current and potential future impact of third-party state and non-state actors within the Canadian operating environment.

b. Concurrent with the assessment, VSI shall develop a multi-phase strategic proposal outlining a range of discreet, innovative, and actionable options. These options should be designed to proactively shape the Canadian operating environment over a 5-10 year timeframe to mitigate identified risks and foster conditions favorable to enduring U.S. regional objectives.

The proposal must include:

i. Multiple, distinct Courses of Action (COAs), ranging from low-visibility influence operations to more assertive contingency measures.

ii. Detailed operational concepts for each phase of the proposed COAs.

iii. Comprehensive risk assessment matrices (likelihood/impact) for each COA, addressing potential blowback (domestic, bilateral, international), exposure risks, and unintended consequences.

iv. Robust mitigation strategies for identified risks, emphasizing plausible deniability for the U.S. Government.

v. Resource requirement projections (personnel, funding, logistical support) for each proposed COA.

#### **\*\*4. OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDANCE:\*\***

a. All activities undertaken pursuant to this directive must prioritize maximum discretion and operational security. The Contractor shall employ methods that ensure complete and enduring plausible deniability for the United States Government regarding any VSI activities or the U.S. Government's interest therein.

b. VSI is encouraged to propose creative, non-standard, and potentially asymmetric approaches leveraging its unique capabilities and global network, consistent with applicable legal frameworks and the overarching requirement for discretion.

c. Coordination with other U.S. Government entities beyond this Office is not authorized at this stage unless explicitly directed through secure channels.

#### **\*\*5. SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:\*\***

a. This directive and all associated work products are classified TOP SECRET // ORCON / NOFORN / FGI [USA/FVEY]. Access within VSI must be strictly compartmentalized and limited to named principals and essential personnel possessing appropriate clearances and a validated need-to-know, as approved by the VSI VP-GS.

b. All electronic communications related to this tasking must utilize designated, U.S. Government-approved secure communication systems. No discussion or transmission of related information shall occur over unclassified or non-validated networks.

c. VSI shall implement enhanced internal security protocols for the handling, storage, and destruction of all materials associated with this initiative.

**\*\*6. REPORTING, TIMELINE, AND BRIEFINGS:\*\***

a. VSI shall provide bi-weekly progress updates via secure channels to the designated Point of Contact within this Office.

b. A preliminary findings and COA framework briefing is requested on or about 15 January 2024. Format and attendees to be coordinated separately.

c. The final comprehensive assessment and strategic proposal package is due for submission no later than 01 February 2024. Submission format requirements will be provided under separate cover.

**\*\*7. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION:\*\***

a. Initial funding for the assessment and proposal development phase described herein is allocated under Task Order 11 of the referenced VSI Contract vehicle (#USA-ISC-2021-047B). All expenditures must be documented in accordance with established contract procedures.

b. Authorization for funding subsequent phases or implementation of proposed COAs is strictly contingent upon U.S. Government review and formal approval of the submitted proposal package. The VSI VP-GS shall serve as the primary administrative point of contact for contractual matters related to this tasking.

**\*\*8. CLOSING:\*\***

Your organization's unique expertise is deemed essential to addressing these complex and sensitive national security challenges. We anticipate a thorough and innovative response consistent with VSI's established reputation.

**\*\*[Signature Block Redacted/Secure Electronic Signature Placeholder]\*\***

Director

Office of Special Projects (Executive Liaison)

United States Government

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