

APPENDIX FOUR
SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR
PREPARING A STRATEGIC ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION

1. MISSION

2. THE SITUATION AND COURSES OF ACTION

**A. CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING POSSIBLE COURSES
OF ACTION**

(1) Characteristics of the area of operations.

(a) Military geography.

- 1. Topography**
- 2. Hydrography**
- 3. Climate and weather**

(b) Transportation

(c) Telecommunications

(d) Politics

(2) Relative combat power

(a) Opponent military

- 1. Strength**
- 2. Order of battle**
- 3. Location and disposition**
- 4. Reinforcements**
- 5. Logistics**
- 6. Combat efficiency**
- 7. Profile of military**

(b) Friendly military (same as above)

(c) Opponent Political Defiance

- 1. Strengths**
- 2. Weaknesses**
- 3. Pillars of support**

- 4. Demographic considerations
 - a. Population density
 - b. Distribution of college graduates
 - c. Literacy rates among supporters
 - d. Ethnic and religious densities
 - e. Standards of living (supporters)
- 5. Political Considerations
 - a. "Natural allies"
 - b. Organizations
 - c. Political fissures
- 6. Security considerations
 - a. Effectiveness of counter-intelligence
 - b. Vulnerability for recruitment
 - c. Organizational vetting procedures
 - d. Communications
 - e. Information and document security
- (d) Friendly Political Defiance (as above)
- (3) Assumptions
- B. OPPONENT CAPABILITIES
- C. OWN COURSES OF ACTION
- 3. Analysis of opposing courses of action
- 4. Comparison of own courses of action
- 5. Decision