MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, ICAPS

Subject: Intelligence Terminology

Reference: ICAPS Memo of 4 October 1946, same subject.

1. The following intelligence terms appear to require clear definitions.

- intelligence
- counter-intelligence
- information
- counter-espionage
- distribution
- espionage
- dissemination
- agent
- grading
- vet
- evaluation
- brief
- source
- informer
- origin
- informer
- essential elements of information
- unwitting informant
- national intelligence requirements
- propaganda - white
- strategic intelligence digest
- propaganda - black
- clandestine
- collation
- overt
- double agent
- covert
- collection
- semi-overt
- intelligence brief
- semi-covert
- intelligence target

DONALD H. GALLOWAY
Assistant Director
Special Operations
Office Memorandum  •  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, ICAPS
FROM : Assistant Director, Collection and Dissemination

DATE: 25 October 1946

SUBJECT:  Intelligence Terminology

1. Reference your memorandum of 4 October, above subject, the need for coordination of intelligence terminology is concurred in. Recognition of the need in March 1946 gave rise to the project which was initiated by Planning Directive No. 6 of the Central Planning Staff. When the project was interrupted by last summer’s reorganization, the following steps had been taken:

   a. Pending assignment of sufficient personnel to make the study, the Office of the Chief, CPS, secured definitions of eleven fundamental intelligence terms previously prepared by the War Department. These had been thoroughly worked out and were consistent with dictionary usage as well as with latest official doctrine of the War Department.

   b. When sufficient personnel were assigned late in May, the ANSCOL Dictionary of Military Terms was promptly secured and reviewed. Comments or proposed definitions for twenty terms frequently used in intelligence work were then drafted by a committee. However, as an incident to the reorganization, this list of definitions by-passed the Chief, CPS, and should not be considered as having his approval. Some of the definitions could be improved by systematic review and criticism.

   c. A drafted recommendation of 9 August that ICAPS prepare an NIA Directive establishing the definitions as standard for Government usage was apparently not acted on, so the project then died.

2. Enclosed are three lists:

   TAB A. The terms for which the Office of the Chief, Central Planning Staff, furnished definitions in March.

   TAB B. Those terms from the ANSCOL Dictionary which were commented on in August.

   TAB C. Terms (including some from Tabs A and B) which the Office of Collection and Dissemination feels are now so loosely used as to require clear definition.

3. a. Proposed definitions are not submitted herewith for two reasons:

   (1) Many of the terms in Tab C pertain to functions of offices other than the Office of Collection and Dissemination. The office having primary interest in a function should have the first opportunity to draft or review any definition pertaining exclusively to such function.
(2) The labor of developing definitions is extensive. To avoid waste effort, a decision should first be reached as to which definitions are to be prepared.

b. If the definitions are to be really useful to the Government, they should be developed in the comprehensive manner of professional dictionaries. We should avoid the error of over-simplifying or incorrectly limiting a definition to only one usage. To illustrate, Webster's New International Dictionary gives nine definitions of "intelligence", at least three of which apply to the intelligence problem under the NIA. In contrast to this, the definition of "intelligence" contained in the list referred to under 1b, above, is narrow, recognizing only one of four known meanings of military intelligence.

c. A project of this difficulty should not be pursued hastily. An initial realization that probably several months may be required will help insure sound results in the long run. It is suggested that a practical approach would be to select first a half dozen key words, such as information, intelligence, intelligence-information, collection, evaluation and dissemination, for the initial project. The definition of each should be based on a study of existing professional dictionary definitions and previously proposed definitions, plus a study of pertinent discussions in the Encyclopedia Britannica and in manuals of the State, War and Navy Departments. Drafts of definitions should then be prepared and referred to all Assistant Directors for review and comment. When accord has been reached in CIG, the proposed definitions should then be offered for comment or concurrence of the member agencies of the IAB. After the first six key definitions are approved and published, it is believed that the development of the remaining definitions, in increments of fifteen or twenty each, will be much easier.

4. It is recommended that:

a. A composite list be prepared, combining terms from Tab C with those submitted by other Assistant Directors.

b. A plan of development be initiated, along lines outlined in 3c, above.

C: T. Olsen
Captain, U. S. N.
Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination

3 Incls:
Tabs A, B and C
Intelligence Terms for which
War Department Prepared Definitions

Censorship, civil
Censorship, military
Counterintelligence
Dissemination (of military intelligence) (Disseminate, v.t.)
Enemy Capabilities
Enemy Order of Battle
Estimate of the Enemy Situation
Essential Elements of Information
Evaluation (Evaluate, v.t.)
Intelligence
Military Information
Intelligence Terms for which CIG Drafted Comments or Definitions in August

Aerial Photography, Interpretation of
Capabilities, Enemy
Censorship
Censorship, Civil
Censorship, Military
Classified Matter
Compromise
Counterintelligence
Declassify
Downgrade
Information, National Essential Elements of
Intelligence
Intelligence, Air
Intelligence, Combat
Intelligence Information
Military
Production Loss Appraisal
Security
Security, Internal
Strategic Materials
Intelligence words and phrases loosely used and not uniformly understood.

Capabilities, enemy  
Censorship  
Censorship, civil  
Censorship, military  
Cipher (encipher, decipher)  
Classify (classification, classified matter)  
Code (encode, decode)  
Collation  
Collection  
Collection directive  
Collection plan  
Compromise  
Counter-espionage  
Counterintelligence  
Counterintelligence measures  
Counterintelligence operations  
Counterintelligence plan  
Counter-sabotage  
Cover  
Coverage  
Cryptanalysis  
Declassify  
Directive, collection  
Directive, research  

Dissemination  
Distribution  
Document  
Downgrade  
Espionage  
Essential elements of information of intelligence  
Evaluation  
Information

Information modified by adjectives or adjective phrases as follows:
atomic energy; classified; counterintelligence; domestic, economic;
military; naval; nuclear energy; nuclear physics; political; scientific;
technical.

Intelligence

Intelligence modified by adjectives or adjective phrases as follows:
air; atomic energy; basic; clandestine; combat; communications; domestic;
economic; flak; foreign; military; naval; national policy; nuclear energy;
nuclear physics; photo; political; positive; scientific; secret; special;
static; strategic; tactical; technical.

Intelligence-information  

Intelligence information modified by adjectives or adjective phrases as follows:
atomic energy; domestic; economic; foreign; military; naval;
nuclear energy; nuclear physics; political; scientific; technical.

Interpretation  
Interpretation, photo  
Operations, counterintelligence
Operations, intelligence
Order of battle
Order of battle, enemy
Order of battle, foreign
Plan, intelligence
Plan, collection
Plan, counterintelligence
Plan, research
Reading center
Reading panel
Requirement, intelligence
Requirement, information
Research
Research, intelligence
Source
Security
Security, internal
Security, physical
Security, domestic
Security, cryptographic
24 October 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Interdepartmental Coordinating and Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Intelligence Terminology

1. Your memorandum of 4 October 1946 on this subject has been received. A memorandum has now been directed to the Branch Chiefs of ORE and to other appropriate members of the ORE staff, requesting them to assemble a list of intelligence terms in different usage by the agencies and a list of intelligence terms so loosely used as to require clear definitions.

2. The lists will be compiled as rapidly as the nature of the task, the limitations of personnel, and the priority of other tasks permit.

J. ALAIR HUDDLE
Assistant Director for Research and Evaluation
Acting Asst. Dir., CIA
Acting Asst. Dir., NSE
Acting Asst. Dir., SO
Acting Chief, NAPS

Intelligence Terminology

IGAPS has constantly run into difficulties in dealing with the various intelligence agencies of the government because of the difference in usage of intelligence terms. The Office of Special Operations has also indicated an urgent need for the establishment of basic intelligence terminology.

Will you each please survey your offices in an attempt to supply IGAPS with a list of intelligence terms in different usage by the agencies as well as intelligence terms so loosely used as to require clear definitions.

If you or members of your staff have proposals in the form of definitions they will be welcomed.

The only work done to date in this field by IG has been the submission to JCS in connection with the joint dictionary of military terms for Army and Navy use.

DE/bhr

DONALD WISNER

/ Central Records (2)
MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Support Branch

SUBJECT: Intelligence Terminology

REFERENCE: (a) Security Disposition Form re Planning Directive No. 6 re Subject.

1. As requested in reference (a) Intelligence Terms listed in the ANSCOL Dictionary have been reviewed and are concurred in except as noted below.

2. Exceptions:

   a. J.C.S. Definition

      Compromise. The capture or recovery by salvage, theft, photography, or cryptoanalytic solution of cryptographic material, plans, orders, and the like by unauthorized persons.

      Recommended Definition

      Compromise. To endanger security by permitting unauthorized persons to gain special or classified information or matter. Security may be compromised by enemy cryptoanalysis, capture, theft, salvage, photography and other forms of espionage, or by careless conversation or handling of classified information by own personnel.

      Comment. Compromise is not the actual loss of information or material but the effect of that loss on the security of the code, situation, or operation involved.

   b. J.C.S. Definition

      Intelligence, basic. Intelligence produced in times of peace and war for use in planning possible or actual operations.
Recommendation. Eliminate this definition as unnecessary. As stated it includes all intelligence — which is previously defined in more detail. The term is not believed to be in common usage. No two of five people contacted had the same idea of what it might mean.

c. J.C.S. Definition

Information, essential elements of. That information about the enemy, the terrain, hydrographic conditions, or meteorological conditions in territory not under our control which a commander needs in a particular situation in order to make a sound decision, to conduct a maneuver, to avoid being surprised, or to formulate details of a plan of operation. The essential elements may also include information requested by higher, adjacent, supporting, or attached units.

Recommended Definition

Information, essential elements of. That information about the capabilities and intentions of the enemy, the terrain, etc.

3. An additional definition is recommended, i.e.,

Information, National essential elements of. That information which is required by the Federal Government to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security.

Comment. This is taken from the definition included in the recommended directive to establish N.E.I.