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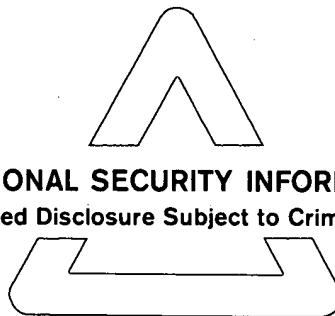
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18 September 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NSA's Expert Linguist Emergency Reaction Team (ELERT) (S/CCO)

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2. In order to ensure that NSA will have a Quick Reaction Capability (QRC), individuals selected for the ELERT program are on twenty-four hour call, are provided with all necessary clearances, and are given training in the technical equipment they will require to ensure rapid transmission of their intelligence to appropriate authorities. They are also being given briefings on political developments in the field of international politics and international terrorism and will be trained as well in understanding the dialects of the languages in which they are competent. For example, it is hoped that eventually Italian and French linguists will receive training in Sicilian, Sardinian and Corsican dialects. (S/CCO)

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3. Since the demands for simultaneous and/or consecutive translation are quite different from those for the monitoring of communications which are later put into written reports, there is at present no metric for testing of people with such skills. Accordingly, NSA has two let two contracts, one with the Center for Applied Linguistics, and another with the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages, to establish such a testing metric. (S/CCO)

4. In February 1984, the DDCI directed the FLC to be the focal point for the creation of an Intelligence Community pool of linguists for surge requirements. The Committee, he stated, should:

- serve as the Community repository for details on the ability of Community elements to augment on a surge basis their respective active duty corps of linguists;

- keep the DCI apprised of the Community's continued overall ability to respond to emergency situations requiring such augmentation; and

- provide a Community forum for addressing issues pertaining to interagency linguistic support. (S)

5. In the ensuing eighteen months, the FLC, thanks to the excellent support provided by Dr. James Brennan (ICS/PBS), has constructed a data base of Community linguists (active duty, retirees/reservists, and military national guard personnel) from CIA, NSA, DoD (including NSA and the uniformed services), FBI, and the Foreign Service. Data permitting, tested competence in speaking, reading, and oral comprehension are included. (S)

6. The FLC is presently reviewing the languages spoken in various countries in which instability may require the presence of US forces or in which terrorist activities may require rescue missions. We will then present our findings to appropriate Community elements and to the Director and Deputy Director of the Intelligence Community Staff, to determine what steps should be recommended to the DDCI/DCI for improving our capabilities in those languages in which we have little or no competence. Since no one element of the Community can afford to train and maintain the skills of linguists for such close-support operations, we shall look into the possibility of creating a Community-wide pool that could be tapped, in case of need, by any Community element. The NSA ELERT system may, with certain modifications, serve as a model for such a Community-wide pool. (S)

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