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Intelligence

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1945

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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U.S. INTELLIGENCE BOARD

In 1958, the US Communications Intelligence Board (USIB) merged with the Intelligence Advisory Committee to form the US Intelligence Board, an element of the National Security Council. The Committee had been created in 1950 to supervise national security establishment intelligence activities, but, when Walter Bedell Smith took over the CIA (an element of NSC) in 1951, one of his first changes was to put the Committee in an advisory role (thus its name), rather than supervisory, particularly with respect to himself, Director of Central Intelligence. The Communications Intelligence Board had been created in 1946 as an advisory organization in DOD. The merger of the Board and the Committee in 1958 gave the Director of Central Intelligence greater control of signal intelligence activities of the armed services and was the result of a recommendation of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities. (See Richelson, pp. 339-40; Wise, p. 97; and Corson, pp. 329 & 73, cited below).

Interestingly, Ransom, p. 89, and Book VI of the Church Committee Supplementary Reports on Intelligence Activities, p. 311, indicate the USIB was created in 1960, rather than 1958. (Book IV of the Church Committee hearings, pp. 62ff, may resolve this discrepancy, but is not available at MHI.)

The USIB role when organized in 1958 was to "coordinate the setting of requirements for intelligence, approve National Intelligence Estimates, and generally supervise the operations of the intelligence agencies." However, the real power remained with the individual services and agencies. "As collection programs mushroomed, USIB proved unequal to the task of providing centralized management and eliminating duplication." (Fain, p. 19).

It was made up of "senior representatives of the State Department, the Department of Defense, the military services and the FBI." (See Fain, p. 19; why he does not include the CIA as the directing member escapes me; perhaps it is assumed.)

A summary of National Security Council operations in the Eisenhower years appears on pp. 111-39 of Jackson, but without mention of IAC or USIB, even though USIB appears in the NSC 1959 organization chart reprinted in Organizing for National Security: Selected Materials.

As of 1967, the USIB was made up of the Director of CIA (Chairman), Deputy Director of CIA, heads of the intelligence organizations of State and Defense (DIA and NSA), plus representatives of AEC and FBI. The Board then met once a week at CIA headquarters to weigh input from the operating agencies and to prepare National Intelligence Estimates. The work of the Board was at that time performed by about 50 special committees, staffed by experts from the various intelligence agencies. (See pp. 47-57, MacCloskey.)

In 1976, the USIB was abolished and replaced with the National Foreign Intelligence Board. For info on its organization, see pp. 280ff of Richelson.

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