

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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ACTION

February 2, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: MIKE OKSENBERG. <sup>MB</sup>

SUBJECT: Suggestion for a PRM

I think an in-government assessment of our national intelligence capability on China (and the USSR?) is called for.

I do not mean by this an assessment of batting averages nor a critical review of CIA estimates of Chinese (or Soviet) hardware. Rather, I have two broad concerns:

-- First, on the basis of my first impressions and talks around town, I wonder about how the quality of manpower in the intelligence community is maintained and enhanced after recruitment: what training the personnel receive, how they continue their intellectual development, what they read, and so on. I have not been very impressed thus far by what I have seen, either in terms of people I have met or the product. The issue is: how do we cultivate talent so that 15-20 years from now, we will have a core group of 25-35 top-flight Chinese intelligence analysts in the then age bracket of 40-55. Everyone agrees with me that unless something is done, such a group will not exist.

-- Second, and relatedly, I think we should examine the state of our academic research centers on China (and the USSR). These valuable assets, as you know, are being wasted through lack of funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize me to develop a PRM on the state of our intelligence -- the word used in its best sense -- on China (or, if you wish to add it, the USSR), to identify current problems both within and outside the government, and to recommend courses of action.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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BY [Signature] 5/16/01

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