

C.I.A. TO UNDERGO MAJOR OVERHAUL

White House Said to Want More Concise Reports

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LANGLEY, Va., Aug. 20—The Central Intelligence Agency is about to undergo its first major organizational changes in 10 years, high officials disclosed today.

One agency operation facing reorganization is the top-level Office of National Estimates, which consists of 10 executives and 20 staff members.

National intelligence estimates—drawing if need be on the resources of the entire intelligence community, including the Defense Department and the Labor, Treasury and Agriculture Departments—are regarded as the C.I.A.'s most comprehensive reports.

These estimates are prepared mostly at the request of the National Security Council—that is to say, the White House—and deal with specific problems such as political terrorism, or a country or a region.

In the wide marble halls of the intelligence agency's headquarters, decorated with large abstract paintings, a visitor learns that the contemplated changes "will also affect the seventh floor," where the agency's chiefs are.

But senior officials denied suggestions that "heads might roll," or that basic intelligence procedures would be altered.

They pointed out that John W. Hutzenga, the last director of national estimates, retired

in June when he reached the age of 60, the normal retirement age. "He did not resign," as was reported in the press," an official said, adding that other senior operatives had also retired in recent months upon reaching 60.

"The estimative process won't be lost in the jiggering and tinkering that is going on," an official contended. "And the talent won't be lost either."

'Repackaging' the Goal

The aim of the shift, according to officials here, is to achieve a "repackaging" of the Central Intelligence Agency's reporting, especially to the White House. One C.I.A. man spoke of "sharpening up our copy."

The changes appear to be in part a response to demands of the agency's principal customer, the White House, for precise, cleanly focused responses to specific policy questions rather than scholarly tomes, for which the Office of National Estimates has been noted.

The Office of National Estimates has been turning out its papers for more than two decades, sometimes at a rate of 50 a year. It has recently been facing a kind of competition from its nominal boss, the National Security Council.

Under the prodding of Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, the 100-man National Security Council has produced more than 200 "national security study memorandums," on topics ranging from "chemical-biological agents" to "Iceland" and "Malta."

The C.I.A. changes may also result in a new name for the Office of National Estimates, formed in 1950 to provide a succession of Presidents with analyses to help them make policy decisions.