DER SPIEGEL
DAS DEUTSCHE NACHRICHTEN-MAGAZIN

December 2009

SID today

(U//FOUO) Big Changes Anticipated with Newest Release of the National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF)

Byline (U//FOUO) Jim Phillips, National Production Issues Officer/NIPF Officer (S17)

(U//FOUO) Some fairly dramatic changes have been made to the latest version of the National Intelligence Priorities Framework, or NIPF. These changes will very likely affect the priorities for all of the "INTs" and all of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) agencies, including SIGINT and NSA.

(U) Reduction in Overall Number of Priorities

(S//NF) The NIPF indicates the U.S.'s national intelligence priorities, ranked from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest). Each time a new NIPF matrix is released (about twice a year), it is run against the National SIGINT Requirements Process (NSRP), and the 5 levels of NIPF priorities are translated into the 9 levels of SIGINT priorities, based upon the importance of the SIGINT contribution. Back when the NIPF began, in 2003, the matrix contained over 2,300 cells, each indicating the intersection between a state or non-state actor and an intelligence topic. There were literally hundreds of priority 1s and priority 2s -- simply too many high priorities, and too many overall, to be really manageable. Over the years, the total number of priorities, particularly the numbers of priority 1s and 2s, has been reduced. The current, more manageable NIPF V10 represents the most significant streamlining of the matrix to date.**