

PROFORMA

What is SIGINT?

SIGINT is knowledge derived from the interception and processing of communications and non-communications signals. It is composed of four elements. Communications Intelligence (COMINT) is the interception and analysis of communications signals. Foreign Instrumentation Signals (FIS) Intelligence (FISINT) makes up another portion of the SIGINT discipline.

FISINT attempts to collect and interpret the data from telemetry and instrumentation systems in order to derive system capabilities and activities. For strategic arms control, the U.S. could count numbers principally through the use of photo satellites, "But the chief means of monitoring the capabilities of these missiles was interception of Soviet missile test telemetry by signals intelligence satellites and ground stations." ³

"Proforma" or data link signals make up another SIGINT

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category which is growing in importance. These are hybrid signals containing the characteristics of both COMINT and Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) signals.

ELINT is defined as, "...intelligence information that is the product of activities in the collection and processing, for subsequent intelligence purposes, of potentially hostile, non-communications electromagnetic radiations which emanate from other than nuclear detonations and radioactive sources."⁴

source:

<http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf&AD=ADA277013>

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