

The First Decisions

There are three ways of solving the problem of a publication that is serving no useful purpose:

1. Kill it and do nothing.
2. Kill it and start a new one.
3. Redefine it and make it useful.

The first option must be squarely faced. If the debate is confined to the status quo and coupled with the cost restraint considerations of the Government generally and the Department specifically the temptation to cease publication forthwith would be strong.

If the Bulletin were simply to stop arriving in the mail it is doubtful that adverse reaction would be great. It might be manifest at two levels and at two time spans.

First: There would in all probability be a trickle of complaint from librarians and other persons concerned with information retrieval.

There is, unquestionably, validity in the basic record-keeping function of the Bulletin so far as it goes.

However, this complaint could be answered by the monthly issuance of a condensed, mimeographed or photo-offset newsletter solely for technical reference purposes at a fraction of the Bulletin's present cost.

Second: Somewhat later, after the significance of the cancellation dawned, that segment of the community articulate about foreign affairs would no doubt complain that the cancellation constituted a regressive step.