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Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP33-02415A000800290011-9

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: OSA Research and Development Program

(Agency Funded) for Fiscal Year 1969

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for approval of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 6.

2. Prior to the establishment of the NRO, the Office of Special Activities had a sizeable independent Agency funded research and development program oriented toward overhead reconnaissance systems, which produced, among other things, the IDEALIST (U-2) and OXCART (A-12) vehicles. With the advent of the NRO, funding of this activity was transferred to the NRO. In the ensuing years primary R&D responsibility of the Office of Special Activities has been directed toward the further development and operation of the OXCART and IDEALIST programs, with limited investigations having been performed on other reconnaissance systems. One of these was the ISINGLASS program, the preliminary studies of which were completely funded by the McDonnell Aircraft Company, with

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NRO review(s) completed.

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no Government money invested. In recent years our research and development effort has been subjected to increasing funding restrictions, <sup>BY THE NRO,</sup> even when directly related to the OXCART and IDEALIST Programs.

3. Both the Air Force and the Navy carry on research and development activities generally associated with systems applicable to the National Reconnaissance Program. As such developments reach appropriate stages, they provide a rational basis for the initiation of new programs under either the NRO or their service programs. However, the CIA does not have a comparable independent Agency-oriented research and development program at this time, which precludes presentation of a well-founded program proposal to the NRO for funding. We must depend on Air Force and Navy research and development for the early stages of work or, as in the case of ISINGLASS, depend on efforts by potential contractors.

4. Air Force and Navy research and development programs are generally oriented toward the requirements of their respective services and do not necessarily fulfill the requirements for intelligence collection by the CIA. Contractor-funded studies are also very poor practice in that, as in the Air Force and Navy programs, the CIA has little, if any, real

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control over the direction of the studies; neither does it derive the benefits of a competitive program.

5. [redacted] (Coordination of Research Development and Engineering) states in part:

"Research, development, and engineering (RD&E) of new techniques and equipment for collecting processing and evaluating intelligence data is vital to CIA, as is the contribution research and engineering can make to communications and security of intelligence activities. It is essential that RD&E efforts be responsive to the total needs of CIA and that scientific and engineering advances be promptly exploited to maintain and improve technical advantages wherever possible."

In keeping with these objectives it is important that the Office of Special Activities maintain a capability, independent of outside agencies, for the development of new systems, components, sensors, etc., to support the Agency-wide requirements for collection of information. In order to accomplish this, moderate funding controlled by the Agency itself is required. R&D studies will include aircraft systems designed for short and long-range penetration, carrying electronic, photographic [redacted]

[redacted] plus developments in sensor systems and components necessary for these missions. We would also

expect to carry on work related to the development of

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We would still expect

to coordinate with, and take full advantage of R&D programs of other agencies, and, as in the past, to share any significant developments with them. Specifically exempted from our programs would be efforts in the field of satellite systems development and in the interpretation and the analysis of the imagery therefrom.

6. It is recommended that Research and Development Funding in the amount of [Redacted] be allocated to OSA in FY-1969 and that OSA be delegated the specific authority to conduct necessary research and development programs in the general field of reconnaissance.

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[Redacted]

Acting Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology

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SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:

Director of Special Activities \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The recommendation contained in paragraph 6 is approved

Director of Central Intelligence \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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