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20 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT: Use of AQUATONE for Mapping from Carrier Base

1. This morning I discussed with Mr. Lundahl and Colonel Elmore Lawton, Colonel Byrd Sargent and Mr. Harold Sewell of the Army the question of priority needs for mapping photography in areas out of range of Bases A, B, and C. Colonel Lawton is the most knowledgeable party in the Army in terms of Army needs and is already privy to Air Force and Navy requirements which the Army has responsibility for listing. Accordingly, his views, I believe, can be considered authoritative in terms of military needs.

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2. The Defense Department is about to issue a priority listing of areas throughout the world on which mapping is required. Within that listing and also within the purview of this examination is Afghanistan with a priority of #2 (out of a possible 5). [REDACTED]

3. Efforts to photograph Afghanistan currently are under way in the form of a possible contract between Afghanistan and the Fairchild mapping firm at a cost of \$1,500,000 of which the Army has considered putting up a half million, the Afghanistan Government a half million with the possibility that the Air Force might put up a half million. Reported Russian infiltration in Afghanistan is an intelligence need though this does not necessarily support an argument for mapping. Afghanistan could be reached from the Indian Ocean presumably.

4. The next most important mapping requirement was thought to be north Viet Nam, again within the framework of this investigation though I have the impression that this ranks well below Afghanistan.

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5. There are other mapping needs but of much lower priority. Venezuela in Latin America is in Priority #1 because of its strategic and economic importance, but a joint US-Venezuela mapping program using a private firm is currently under way. Eastern Panama has not been photographed but this only for lack of proper weather. Most of Central America has been covered by contract work. Thailand has been finished. Indonesia and India are of low priority. South and Central Africa are of low priority. Currently the Burmese Government is attempting to get bids from private firms from both this country and other countries to do aerial photography for mapping purposes.

6. Other considerations which you did not invite me to look into particularly but which come to mind in considering the carrier-based idea are as follows:

a. Whereas practically any photography from Afghanistan would be warmly received in the present absence of information, it is to be expected that a careful mapping performance would require the introduction of new pilot techniques, possibly new equipment, in order that the utilization of the material might be efficient. Lundahl would be able to advise on the details of this factor.

b. The A-1 configuration would probably be the one to use to jibe with currently used exploitation equipment and procedures.

c. The development of carrier-based capability at this time might be important as a means of experimentation and then readiness for use in the event of war.

JAMES Q. REBER
Intelligence Requirements Officer

JQR:cw

- 1-Project Director
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