

TOP SECRET

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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15 February 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Office of Special Assistant to the
Director of Central Intelligence
Room 315, Administration Building
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 "E" Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: AQUATONE

1. In a conference held on 1 February it was requested that I furnish an informal memorandum which would reflect Army reaction to the various proposals offered.

2. One of the primary considerations concerning this subject matter is the security safeguards to be employed. I consider that the products from the operation, in the main, should be classified Top Secret, and that access to photographs should be limited to a strict "need-to-know" basis. The utilization of a code word is necessary. However, the suggestion that the photographs be handled on a Comint basis is believed to be improper, since to do so violates the accepted definition of Comint. Moreover, the Comint classification negates adequate utilization of the product in the future support of military forces.

3. It is expected that the photographs will provide the Army with operational intelligence, current intelligence, basic intelligence data, and information which can be utilized in the preparation of maps and charts. For that reason an examination of the means whereby a joint integrated effort may be created is necessary, with each agency involved providing its fair share of trained personnel at every stage wherein photographs are examined. Separate duplicate sets of photographs and negatives distributed direct to each of the Services and CIA not only would result in a massive and unwieldy flow of information, but would cause unnecessary duplication of effort and generate security breaches. On the other hand, a strictly "retail" operation could result in too restricted a flow of material. As against these two approaches, I believe that a joint integrated effort at every stage is essential. This type of operation would ensure that the interests of each agency are satisfied, while at the same time the flow of information would be held to steady, manageable proportions. Initial screening of the photographs would identify the particular photograph as being of

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interest to one or more of the agencies concerned. It would also provide the means whereby information of immediate operational interest could be developed. To be sure, there would be some overlap of interest, but this fact holds true in any event. I am convinced that a joint integrated effort provides the only secure and effective means whereby the agencies concerned can achieve the desired results.

4. In order to provide complete Army support to this project it is mandatory that our planning be accomplished as soon as possible so that the implementing actions can be initiated. The time in which these actions must be completed is short. I therefore request that I be permitted to utilize the services of Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Merritt, O-46220, and Lieutenant Colonel James C. Bagley, O-1285173. Both of these officers are assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence. Each of these officers has a Top Secret and Comint clearance. I shall restrict my briefing of these officers to the context of AQUATONE. I would appreciate approval of this as soon as possible.



CHAS. G. DUNN
Colonel, GS
Chief, Collection Division

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