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TS-164219 ✓
~~SAPS 14851~~
Copy of 6

17 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

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SUBJECT: Operational Aspects of [] - AQUATONE Merger

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1. A meeting of AQUATONE operations staff members with [] was held 9 April to discuss operational aspects of merging [] with AQUATONE. A brief summary of this meeting with recommendations and observations follows.

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2. The discussion with [] was designed primarily to acquaint AQUATONE operations staff with the function of [] and vice versa and to determine the effects amalgamation will have on organizational structure. I feel it necessary at this time to point out the wide range in concept as to the extent of an [] AQUATONE merger. Opinions range from a minor consolidation of the physical facilities of the RB-69 program with certain AQUATONE field units to an overall merger wherein all [] functions and responsibilities are assumed by AQUATONE.

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3. Our discussion brought forth the following as apparent facts:

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a. With the exception of the RB-69 program, [] has few physical assets.

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b. [] has approximately [] persons assigned to headquarters, however there is little or no field organization.

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c. The mission is [] is poorly defined and [] functions and responsibilities are nebulous.

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d. By no means are the air activities of the Agency centered in or around the [] i.e., (1) project under [] sponsored by MI and involving the use of high performance C-47 aircraft and trimetrogon photography,

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25X1 (2) mission planning for overflights presently done in the field by units such as [] under [] 25X1
 It appears questionable that responsibilities for such air activities as the administration of [] should be moved from their present location. 25X1

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e. [] enjoys neither the priority or the autonomy presently available to AQUATONE.

f. AMD is involved to some extent in the following areas:

- 25X1 (1) RB-69 overflight program
- 25X1 (2) Balloon projects (leaflet and agent drops)
- 25X1 (3) [] units at [] and [] (support of unconventional warfare) 25X1
- (4) []
- (5) []
- (6) []
- (7) []

4. It is my opinion that regardless of the extent of a merger, the present AQUATONE operational structure could assume all [] functions with the addition of only few personnel. It is visualized that the ultimate structure of AQUATONE will present an operational staff of considerably fewer persons; thus allowing the addition of any specialist (required to support [] requirements) within our present strength. I can foresee no advantages accruing to AQUATONE as a result of a merger, particularly while we remain autonomous and outside a division such as DD/P. The advantages to [] might be quite different however. 25X1

5. I have but one recommendation: that we restate our problem with the goals and extent of merger more clearly defined in order that the advantages and disadvantages may be more carefully weighed.

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[]
 Director of Operations

- MCM:bm
 1 & 2 - Addressee
 3-- Dep Proj Dir
 4 - Ops subj
 5 - Ops chron
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