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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION referring to Project IDEALIST

25 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT: Capability of the U-2 to Acquire Information on the Situation in Indonesia

1. It is understood that at the last Special Group meeting Mr. Gilpatric inquired as to the kind of information the U-2 would be able to acquire on Indonesia in connection with the current difficulty over West New Guinea (West Iria).

2. For your information 29 U-2 missions were conducted over Indonesia between 29 March and 7 June 1958. From that experience as well as our more recent experience in a country of comparable latitude, climate, and terrain, namely North Vietnam, the same type of information can be obtained. Specifically, it is possible to identify numbers and types of naval vessels, port facilities, airfields, along with construction under way and equipment, numbers and types of aircraft, military barracks, military vehicles, POL storage, road and railroads, along with the amount and character of railroad transport. In some cases in North Vietnam we have been able to detect trails in mountainous terrain. It is rather unlikely that the same would be possible in the jungles of Indonesia.

3. On Thursday of this week the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance will consider the requirements for Indonesia, information from all sources available on the Indonesian situation, and whether gaps in information can be collected by these other sources, or whether U-2 reconnaissance is justified. If so, COMOR will recommend for your consideration, and that of the NRG, and the Special Group, the use of the U-2. In any event, COMOR will report its findings and maintain continuing review of the situation with appropriate report.

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