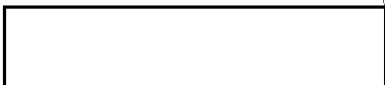


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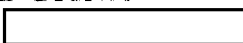


29 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General M. A. Preston
Director of Operations
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations
Department of the Air Force

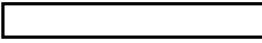
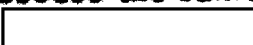
THROUGH : Colonel Leo P. Geary
Special Assistant to the Inspector General
for Projects
Department of the Air Force

SUBJECT : Proposed Peripheral Elint Missions

1. Herewith is a short paper prepared for me within CIA. In your office on 28 July I promised to pass this to you through Colonel Geary. I have taken the liberty of handing a copy of this to  (AFCIN) so that the Air Force Requirements Officer will be familiar with it.

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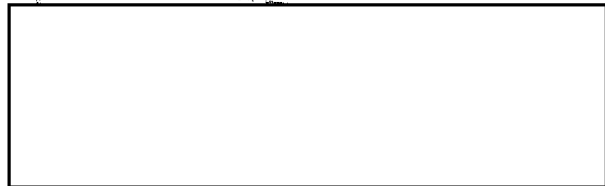
2. I am in full agreement with what I understood to be your view that our organization should undertake peripheral missions of this character only when (a) we have a superior or more readily available capability and (b) a real requirement exists for the intelligence collection.

3. As to the first of these criteria, I am confident that for reasons set forth in the attachment the so-called  collection device in the U-2 aircraft does constitute a superior collection capability, at least for pioneer reconnaissance. It should be noted that within several months, SAC will have this equipment checked out in their U-2s and will therefore possess the same capability. As of today, however, our arrangements with  are complete and we could move a staging

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25X1 party into [redacted] on short notice. I believe therefore we are in better position to perform these missions this season.

4. As to the second criteria, I believe the two missions discussed in the attachment [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] give promise of yielding a valuable addition to presently available intelligence and justify whatever hazards are involved providing that we wait for weather that would permit accurate navigation.

5. I am sure you realize that specific missions would be coordinated well in advance with your staff in accordance with agreed procedures.

19
RICHARD M. BESSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director

25X1 Attachment:

Copy #5 [redacted]

25X1 cc: Col. Geary, AFCIG

[redacted] AFCIN

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