

10 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Photographic Intelligence Center

SUBJECT: PI Keys for Southeast Asia and Africa South of the Sahara

1. In answer to a general DD/I query last fall, OPR recommended, among other things, that external research planning for FY 1962 and 1963 include consideration of the preparation of photographic intelligence keys on Southeast Asia and Africa South of the Sahara (see modified copy of proposal, attached). The recommendation was stimulated by our feeling that research tools presently available are inadequate to deal with the conflicts and international crises that may be expected to occur in these areas over the next several years. We have subsequently followed through to the extent of tentatively confirming the theoretical possibility of initiating such projects in the current fiscal year. In addition, exploratory conversations have been held by [redacted] and [redacted] with [redacted] and others of PIC, and also, in company with [redacted], with [redacted] and Major Brill of Air Force.

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2. It appears from the referenced conversations that the proposed keys would be more costly than we had estimated ([redacted] each was suggested in the OPR memorandum to the DD/I). Also, the interest of the military services is questionable since their current emphasis is on subject rather than regional keys, and these in turn emphasize Bloc countries. However, there was agreement that the preparation of keys for the non-Bloc areas cited would be worthwhile and should be explored further.

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3. Considering that PIC has actual responsibility in these matters, I feel that the OPR proposal should at this point be directed to you for consideration. The proposal represents a need of OPR researchers, which we think will in time be felt by the military services as well. However, an evaluation needs to be made by knowledgeable professionals of the basic feasibility of the proposal. In addition, technically competent people would be required in accomplishing the subsequent steps of formal project proposal and contract monitoring. I hope that you can undertake to explore the matter for us.

(Signed)  
[redacted]  
Chief, Geographic Research  
Research and Reports

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Enclosure: