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Handwritten signature

13 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant Director, Office of Special Activities
SUBJECT : "B" Camera Requirements
REFERENCE : Memo for AD/OSA from DD/OSA, Dated 8 February 1963; Same Subject (OSA 9799-63)

25X1A 1. You will recall our discussion of 12 February on the question of "B" camera requirements with [redacted] of Eastman at the time when he informed us that he has submitted a proposal to us covering projected procurement of six modified Eastman OXC cameras at a cost of [redacted]

25X1A

2. As that conversation relates to the reference paper, I think that my own reaction would be that we would be wise to seriously consider the action covered in paragraph 3. a. which would permit us to acquire rapidly three "B" camera systems at a total investment of [redacted]

25X1A

25X1A 3. While I realize that this is only a partial solution to the entire camera shortage problem, the action I have indicated above would be consistent with what I understand to be Dr. Scoville's approval of the nine aircraft concept paper which will now be forwarded to the NRO. As I recall, however, the price tags on the nine aircraft concept paper for cameras at least were larger than [redacted]. Therefore, we might wish to qualify that paper slightly before it moves direct to NRO in the next day or so.

4. The only caution perhaps we should be mindful of in acquiring three Hycon "B" cameras "using borrowed inventory parts" is that in the process of constructing these systems we do not deplete our spare parts inventory below the levels required to support existing configuration. The three additional improved "B" camera versions covered in paragraph 3. b.

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25X1A of the reference seem to me to present more of a problem than may be apparent at first blush. I find it difficult to assume that Hycon could deliver and certify three essentially new camera systems in the time they have indicated. I see no mention of any necessary flight test phase, either in terms of its time limits or costs, and I am certain that we would not accept what is essentially a new development without such extensive flight test and evaluation. There is also the question about the adequacy of the Hycon proposed funding for a stabilized platform development. What I guess I am saying is that while I would trust Hycon to produce without difficulty "B" cameras that are essentially [redacted] originals of their earlier models, I am not too immediately sanguine about the speed with which they could deliver systems incorporating major mechanical improvements, especially when you include a high-speed focal plane shutter.

25X1A 5. As a last point, you may recall [redacted] suggestion that we ask Hycon to give us the average weight resolution specifications on the "B" cameras already in our inventory to see if all of them match up to desired performance. It is my view, as well as [redacted] that at least one of these cameras falls far short of ideal performance as regards its lens system. If this is the case, perhaps we should also consider scraping such a deficient lens and obtaining a new one from the same source identified in paragraph 3. a. of the reference. You may wish to consider calling a meeting on this subject with [redacted] and others in Development Division before the new program concept paper moves to NRO.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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