

IDEA-3288-66

29 July 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Research & Development, OSA

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SUBJECT: Extension of Loan of Delta III Camera to [redacted]

1. On 26 July Col. Beerli at SAC Headquarters called me to see if it was agreeable to us to continue our loan of the Delta III camera which we made available to [redacted] sometime ago. He said that it would be most helpful if they could keep the system in place for an anticipated additional 30 days or until approximately 1 September.

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2. Beerli then said that apparently SAC had attempted to fly the Delta III system at 40K feet over the Ho Chi Minh Trail "in order to improve ground resolution". According to Beerli, two such flights were flown but the SAC processing unit [redacted] reportedly did not have the proper chemicals on hand to adequately process the film. He said that they then "cooked up a batch of chemicals they thought would do the job", but apparently this simply butched-up the entire developing mechanism. He added that in addition to this goof the processors had printed one of the missions backwards and apparently the [redacted] Commander decided to give up about this time and did not even return the film to the States. Beerli did add that corrective measures have been taken in both of the above areas and that they plan to fly at least two more high resolution trail search missions before 1 September, this time at 70K feet. One of the things that they apparently discovered was that at the lower altitude the alternators were barely turning over enough to furnish fuel for the system.

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3. I told Col. Beerli that I personally saw no reason why the loan could not be extended but I added that we would discuss it here and would communicate with him on the subject either directly from this Headquarters or by way of [redacted] office.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Director of Special Activities

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