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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, DD/S&T

SUBJECT : Itek Corporation
(Release of Sensitive Project Information)

1. This memorandum has been prepared by the Chief, Security Staff, OSA, in accordance with your request of this date.

2. Mr. Walt Levison, Itek Vice-President, advised on this date that recognizing established security restraints, Itek has not and does not intend to advertise the C Triple Prime camera commercially. With the prior approval of OSA, CIA, and the NRO, the utilization of the C Triple techniques have been discussed with CORONA/IDEALIST cleared individuals in the Air Force in anticipation of possible employment in aircraft other than the U-2 (e.g., See Tab A).

3. Project security rules require that contractors clear beforehand with CIA Security, proposed releases if the release in any way touches upon Project activities. In this regard in a publication issued in July 1963, "International Science and Technology", Itek did release information without the prior clearance to which we took exception. Itek was strongly rebuked, and they assured us that they would take every effort to preclude a recurrence. (See Tab B.)

4. As noted in Tab B. above, as a consequence of the unauthorized reference to sensitive Project information in July 1963, the President of Itek was informed by cable that "Itek's recent history of program security infractions approaches breach of contract. Further violations can not be tolerated." Itek then besought guidance from CIA as to just what they could say in their advertising since over seventy-five per cent of the business of Itek is with the government in connection with these ultra-sensitive covert projects.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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5. On 14 August 1963 Mr. Walter Levison, Vice-President of Itek and [] Administrative Assistant to the President, visited this Headquarters. At a meeting on that date (see Tab C.), the Itek officials explained at considerable length that it is extremely difficult for the corporation to say anything about its achievements due to its extremely heavy involvement in special project activities. During the meeting Itek was authorized to fabricate one 24" F3.5 Petzval lens at their own expense and surface it as a "shelf item" developed at their own initiative under their In-house Research and Development Program. After the meeting [] directed a memorandum to the Chief, Security Staff, OSA, wherein he restated Itek's understanding of what they were authorized to do in this regard. (See Tab D.) This 24" lens is the lens employed in the C Triple Prime camera. It may be worthy of note that essentially this same lens was employed in an Air Force balloon project during the late 1950s. It is further our understanding that several of these lenses due to balloon failure came into the possession of the Soviets. It is further our understanding that it would not be unusual in the optics business for a company in its research and development programs to develop a lens of this size. (The most sensitive security aspects, of course, would be the number of such lenses manufactured in the past, any indication of the fact that the lens had been flight proven and further the nature of the system in which the lens has been employed. This information can not be released.)

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6. Another instance which might be construed as a violation by Itek of its responsibility not to advertise sensitive information pertaining to Project matters could be the recently issued year-end report to its stockholders. In particular the second paragraph of the first page of this report refers to the 24" lens. (See Tab E.) A draft copy of this report to the stockholders was provided to CIA for review prior to its release. In fact the Special Security Center, Office of Security, took exception to this specific paragraph. The objection was communicated to Itek at the time the report was in the galley proof stage

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(4) Is the release revealing? If so, what harm?

a. In our opinion the release discussed herein is not revealing of sensitive Project information.

(5) Who and why did we authorize it?

a. Paragraph 5 above describes why Itek was authorized to refer to a 24" lens as a shelf item.

(6) Do we need to put a stop to this specific release?

a. In our opinion such a stop is not necessary. We should continue and possibly more strenuously make every effort to preclude Itek from including in overt publications any tie-in with satellite photography regardless of their intent to refer to future developments under the NASA lunar program, etc., (unless, of course, Itek is authorized later to publicize its participation in such a white program).

(7) Do we need revision of our basic security considerations?

a. There is always room for constant revision of our basic security considerations in view of the dynamic nature of these programs.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
OSA

Attachments, as stated

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