

CONFIDENTIAL

Balloon General
RDT

~~SECRET~~

12 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Captive Balloon System (Status of)

1. On 10 November the undersigned met with [redacted] of Staff D 25X1
to discuss the merits of the captive balloon system as demonstrated on 29
October [redacted] The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the 25X1
status of this project and to determine what future efforts, if any, should
be applied to such a delivery system.

2. [redacted] presented the following information: 25X1

- (a) The system as demonstrated was regarded by him as being operable and his reactions were favorable.
- (b) A case officer has been assigned the job of determining needed information regarding the actual operation site.
- (c) A sample payload with camouflage was displayed.
- (d) Actual range to the target is not firm but may be 1500 yards. More accurate information will be forthcoming. (probably 1200 yds.)

3. In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that the system demonstrated [redacted] would be quite clumsy at long ranges and perhaps 25X1
inadequate. [redacted] suggested that the possibility of a remotely con- 25X1
trolled unmanned blimp type device might be investigated and he was in favor
of determining the maximum range of the existing system and making it more
refined. When time factors were discussed he stated that he would not be
in favor of taking or sponsoring any action until the case officer mentioned
above had supplied the needed information relative to operational parameters.

4. The undersigned stated that action by TSS/ED would await the word
of representatives of Staff D. However, exploratory work on two lines of
possible future action are planned. Proposals for a refined captive balloon
system and for a remotely controlled blimp will be solicited with the under-
standing that approval is uncertain.

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[redacted]

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