

501512-0693
[Redacted]

Project

17 FEB 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer

SUBJECT : White House - CIA Secure Television System

The Director may be interested in the following:

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1. Project [Redacted] covers a White House Signal Agency project for development and testing of a secure television system intended to permit heads of critical Government organizations to brief the President from their own offices.

2. Although the system has never been used operationally, [Redacted] was installed experimentally from the White House [Redacted] to the Director's downtown office and testing began 1 December 1960. Approximately 500 hours of on-air testing has been completed.

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3. In January 1962 the system was modified to permit compatibility with standard television; that is, the system can now also receive standard commercial television transmissions. As a result, equipment required in the Director's office will be one or two television cameras, a television receiver and necessary klieg lights to provide adequate illumination. Cost estimates for ultimate equipment range between 100 - 200 thousand dollars. No decision has been reached whether the White House will fund the entire system, or whether each Agency will pay its proportionate share.

4. A meeting with White House Signal Agency (WHSA) representatives on 23 January 1962 disclosed that the President has indicated some interest in the system. However, until WHSA receives positive guidance relative to the system's eventual number of users, methods of funding and other unsolved problems, they can do little more than continue experimenting generally. Our Office of Communications will be advised as soon as a decision is received by WHSA from the President.

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L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

SPA-DD/S:EdB:jrh(16 Feb 62)

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