

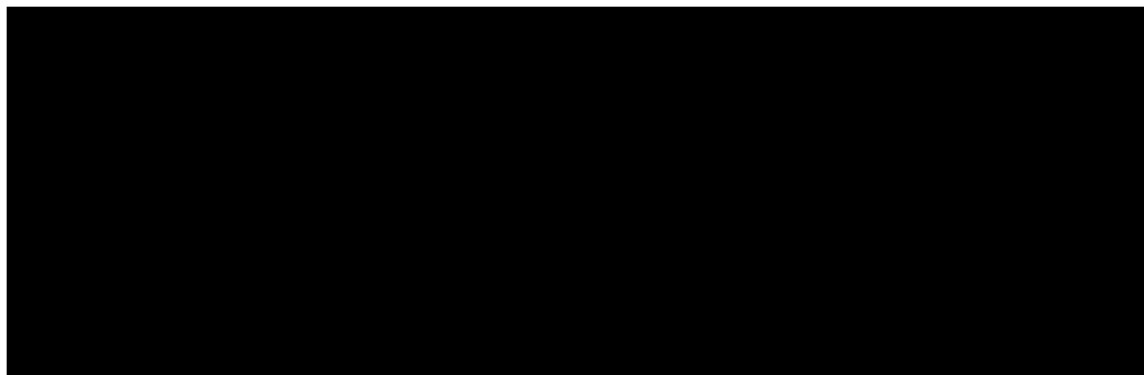
4 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. Gates Lloyd, ADD/S

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SUBJECT: White House - CIA Television

1. [redacted] covers a White House Signal Agency project for the development and testing of a secure television system intended to permit the heads of the critical Government Departments to brief the President from their own offices. The principle technical hurdle to be overcome was the security requirements. An NSA project for the development of a high-speed cipher device was accelerated and the resultant equipment, the [redacted] was incorporated into [redacted]. It would be valid to say that the [redacted] project has adequately demonstrated the technical feasibility of a two-way television system which is completely encrypted on a [redacted] basis.



3. The Project has been completely sponsored and funded by the White House Signal Agency. It is estimated that a duplicate system would cost approximately [redacted] per terminal plus the necessary space, utilities and air conditioning. The existing experimental system connects the White House [redacted] with the Director's Office via a Raytheon 6 MC Microwave link with a relay on the new State Department building. The [redacted] system was installed one year ago and testing commenced 1 December 1960. The usual protracted debugging period followed and to date approximately 500 hours of on-air testing has been done. The system has never been used operationally.

4. The Agency role in the Project was to furnish and train the technicians necessary for the operation and maintenance of the equipment at the CIA end. The NSA arranged for the training which required nine months because of the complexity of each unit. We have furnished only two technicians which is not sufficient for an operational system. The Director of Communications has absorbed the personnel ceiling and cost, pursuant to instructions from the DD/S.

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