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THRU : Projects Review Committee
Executive
Acting Assistant Director, OCD

9 June 1949

Procurement of Foreign Photographs

A. Description of the Project.

1. This project concerns the immediate purchase of current foreign photographs and an investigation of the possibilities of establishing direct contact with commercial photographic firms for a continuing receipt of such photographs.

2. The present procurement arrangements are expensive and time consuming as they require a specific collection directive initiated by a request from the Graphics Register to the Liaison Branch. This directive emanates from the Liaison Branch to the Office of Operations for field action [redacted]. These arrangements have been limited to specific requests and there is an urgent need to establish a continuing flow of this material without demand upon the time of professional procurement officers.

B. Requirements.

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1. It is suggested that the project could be most successfully accomplished by assigning the Chief of the Photograph Division, Graphics Register, OCD, to [redacted] OO for a 2-week period to conduct the necessary investigation in cooperation with the CIA representatives [redacted].

2. It is further suggested that \$2,000 of the current Graphics Register's funds be set aside for the actual purchase of high quality photography that is examined during such survey. While investigating the possibilities of setting up direct commercial contacts for a continuous flow of photographs, the Graphics Register's person assigned would have the opportunity to examine material, not otherwise available, in the files of these commercial agencies. The proposal thereby accomplishes two purposes at once:

- a. Determination of the feasibility for direct procurement on a continuing basis;
- b. Procurement of material, now held in files of commercial agencies, which would not be included under the provisions of (a.)

3. An alternate solution would be to have this same assignment carried out by an OO/C representative already [redacted]. This would require a transfer of the \$2,000 to [redacted] but would not provide the first hand knowledge of our needs. In addition, the Contacts Branch, Office of Operations, has informally indicated that there would be no objection on their part if an official of the Graphics Register assumed responsibility for the project.

C. Recommendation.

1. While the funds available to the Graphics Register, OCD, are for the broad

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purpose of providing graphic intelligence to CIA and the IAC agencies, they are not specifically set up for the purpose of this proposal. A separate request has been submitted recently to the Projects Review Committee for expenditure of funds in the 1950 Budget to cover the needs outlined above. Preparation of the Budget for fiscal year 1951 will also include this activity as part of the Graphics Register's program.

2. It is strongly recommended that approval be granted immediately to provide \$2,000 for the purpose of determining which commercial agencies could best serve CIA's interests in regularly ^{supplying} specialized photographic prints and, at the same time, for purchasing required photography for the NIS program and other intelligence activities, from funds allotted to Graphics Register for the fiscal year 1949. It is further recommended that this amount be made available through either vouchered or unvouchered funds, in the event that purchases from certain commercial agencies must be made through covert means.

/s/ 

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For Concurrence:

Concur in proposal outlined in last sentence of para. B, 3.

Assistant Director for Operations

/s/ George G. Carey

No security objections - Recommend Sec. Control Staff advise on manner of implementation security-wise if Project is approved

Chief, Inspection & Security

/s/ Sheffield Edwards

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