

NPIC/CSD-625-65
6 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Plans and Development

Declass Review by NGA.

SUBJECT : Purchase of Video Tape Equipment

I. Requirement

- A. NPIC has a need for equipment to view video tape.
- B. NPIC has a need for equipment to extract high quality still photographs from video tape.

II. Background

The recent Soviet practice of beaming military films and television accounts of their military parades has resulted in an increasing number of video tapes being produced as a form of intelligence photography.

With the advent of communication satellites, television tapes of the 1 May and 7 November parades in Moscow have been the first photographic accounts of these events to be received in the Washington area.

Whenever NPIC attempts to obtain a copy of a domestic TV broadcast (News, news specials, documentaries, etc.) we are informed that it is available only on video tape. NPIC, at present, has no capability to either view or extract high quality stills from video tape. Currently when video tapes of intelligence import are received, NPIC analysts are required to travel to either Langley or the Pentagon to view them. Only four known government organizations in the Washington area (CIA/Graphics Register, Navy Photographic Center, NSA, and the Army Signal Corp) have the capability for viewing video tapes, but do not possess the necessary equipment to extract high quality stills. Present reproduction methods employed are either, (a) video tape to 16 mm film to still process, or (b) uncontrolled direct photograph of the Monitor.

The Intelligence Community is well aware of the importance of this type of material and the CIA Foreign Broadcast Information Division and the USAF/Foreign Technology Division are planning expanded programs to collect it. (See attachment)

The Director, NPIC in conversations with [redacted] and myself has indicated that the Center should possess the capability to view video tape on monitors or on a screen and the ability to extract high quality photographic stills from video tape.

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III. Discussion

[redacted] has recently developed a system for extracting still photography directly from a video tape recording. The essential components of this system are as follows:

1. CFE (Government Furnished Equipment) magnetic tape playback machine.
2. A disc recorder which permits continuing display of a selected frame of a video tape recording.
3. A recording monitor and camera.
4. A viewing monitor and camera actuator.

Still reproductions using this system can be obtained in the following formats:

1. 70 mm negative--standard or polaroid
2. 70 mm polaroid print
3. 70 mm polaroid positive transparency

The primary advantages of this system are that it allows for direct, high quality reproduction of stills from a video tape and, using a polaroid camera, stills may be obtained in 10 seconds. This system further provides a stop, start, reverse, capability permitting NPIC analysts flexibility in the manipulation of the video tape.

IV. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Plans and Development Staff, study these problems and

- (a) meet with the Assistant for Administration, NPIC in order to determine the equipment necessary for viewing video tapes, and insure that such equipment is compatible with
- (b) CSD's need for equipment for the extraction of high quality still photography.

[redacted]

Chief, Collateral Support Division,
NPIC

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Input

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VR-650 B - 12,440,00 - helical scan 2" tape

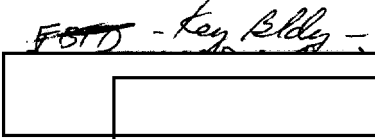
either

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-TR 4 - Transverse scan recorder

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Coenlimbin

FTD -

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WPAFB -



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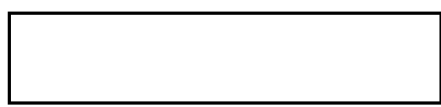


*Soviet Artillery Forces Day Parade 19 Nov 65
used 1" Video Tape Equipment. (MUR-15, 1" tape)*

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MUR-15 modified 1" tape

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2 Feb 1967

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