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NPIC/P&DS/D/6-752

26 January 1966

MEMO TO: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Video Tape Equipment

1. I would like to bring you and [redacted] up to date on the state of our actions in the video tape equipment requirement for [redacted] has assigned [redacted] to this problem, and Rod has come up with some excellent work. He has proposed a memo which we will send to Dino stating the various alternatives open to us in this area. Briefly these consist of buying a device similar in nature to that outlined in the [redacted] proposal, which will be a Video Tape Playback System capable of playing only American standard tapes, coupled to a disc recorder, a monitor and a camera for making high-fidelity hard copy.

2. The other alternatives involve very expensive developments which apparently are being entered in by Agency/COMMO and FTD. In any event, it does not appear to me that it is our responsibility to develop multiplex equipment of this type unless specifically requested. Dino's memo of 6 December 1965 indicated that the [redacted] type of equipment would be satisfactory. In no place has he indicated to the Plans and Development Staff the necessity for developing equipment that will handle all of the various world TV systems.

3. I suggest that we solicit a proposal from [redacted] for one of their systems or ask for competitive proposals and let a contract as soon as possible for this type of equipment. If it appears later that it is necessary for NPIC to build multiplex equipment and that neither COMMO nor FTD has a capability to supply this to us, then we can enter into a development program. I do not feel it is necessary at this time to call [redacted] in order to find out what they are doing. Any detailed inquiries to [redacted] at this time would breach the confidence given by [redacted]

FRANK

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