Director, PIC

25 June 1959

SA/R&D/PIC

Visit of [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] on 24 June 1959 25X1

1. During a previous visit by [redacted] some months back in 25X1
which [redacted] wanted to talk about special camera problems in 25X1
order to stay away from sensitive areas concerning [redacted] own work, the subject of rocket photography was brought up. I briefly described the experiments with the Aerobee-Hi camera combination which began early in '49 with the Viking 11 and 12 and continued through '55, terminating at White Sands. I pointed out the possible geodetic application of this type of system and showed him some of the unclassified photography which were resulted from these experiments. During [redacted] visit yesterday his main purpose was to bring us up to 25X1
date on the state of rocket photography as a collection and mapping source by [redacted] In brief summary, there are two or 25X1
three important projects underway at the moment.

[redacted] 25X1

3. Second, the Navy has also many similar problems observing gross natural phenomena such as the distribution pattern of the annual ice break up of the north polar pack which results even today in several hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to merchant and naval shipping. Considerable effort and funds are spent to watch this dynamic event during the periods of late July through October.

4. Third, [redacted] said that considerable interest has been 25X1
generated in the Air Force concerning the geodetic and intelligence collection capabilities of rocket photography. He mentioned two code words, one of which he could not talk about at any length. [redacted] 25X1
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6. In summary, it is expected that maps with a scale of 1:1,000,000 can be constructed from the Antarctic project with considerable detail to give a photogrammetric calculation of 1,000' contour interval. The cost of all of these programs will be relatively small. I heard the figure $245,000 approximately being the total cost of each shot. If this is true, the total coverage from the high altitude shots which might run a few thousand more each would be relatively cheap compared to satellite systems.

7. It might be worthwhile to consider this method of obtaining geodetic and some intelligence coverage because it does not involve actual overflight but rather can be done from either land or ship bases with solid fuel propellant which does not technically violate any international law.

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