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21 December 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Director, Photographic Intelligence Center  
**THROUGH:** Executive Officer, PIC  
**SUBJECT:** The High Contrast Resolution in Mission 8005

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1. Due to abnormally clear atmospheric conditions and the presence of snow on the ground in limited amounts throughout the track of Mission 8005, it is estimated that the high contrast resolution of Mission 8005 is running better than 90 l/mm and the average high/low contrast resolution is about 75 l/mm. Shadow detail, etc. is of unprecedented value because of the lower sun angle; this coupled with the fact that this mission also covered what is probably the highest density of high priority targets in the Soviet Union of any project mission.

2. This amount of detail poses a terrific problem in manpower in order to readout on a timely basis the vital intelligence information contained therein. The receipt of this mission to a center which is already overwhelmed with work, plus an ever-growing backlog of requirements, makes us face a decision of an unprecedented nature. The question arises as to whether we limit the scope of work of the people on board to only the high priority readout of Mission 8005, or do we continue working at our present full capacity on old requirements. We obviously cannot do both with the limited personnel available.

3. Every passing day, because of the clarity of the coverage and the fine details which can be read at an extremely high magnification, we are finding identification for previously unidentifiable targets on earlier project missions. I would estimate, at this time, that it will take six times as much actual work in PI hours alone, in comparison with any other single mission. In addition to this workload, new requirements are being defined daily because of the now identifiable objects, which were not available to us in the past.

4. I feel that shortly after the beginning of the year you may well have to call another "Jam Session" operation which will severely limit all other operations in the building. Meanwhile we are still facing the possibility of receiving at this center coverage from two possible sources for several months. I feel that a policy decision to increase the manpower at PIC is definitely needed immediately so that we do not become overwhelmed with unexploited photography which contains vital answers for the national estimates.

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