


Dir/PIC

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Contact Lenses for Photo Interpreters

1. In a discussion with  on "How to Improve the Environment of the Photo Interpreter," conventional eye glasses were discussed.

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2. Those interpreters who wear glasses find:

(a) A marked reduction in their field of view, especially when using microscopic types of viewers;

(b) A decided disadvantage due to parallax error;

(c) Abrasion of normal eye glass lenses against tubular viewing devices;

(d) Endless discomfort stemming from added pressure on the bridge of the nose;

(e) Loss of viewing time due to cleaning of eye glass lenses, especially true during summer months.

3. In view of the foregoing discussion, it is apparent that the efficiency of the analyst who wears glasses would be materially improved if he wore contact lenses. Assuming the basic acceptability of contact lenses, PIC could take one of the following four courses of action:

(a) Encourage analysts who wear glasses to purchase contact lenses on the civilian market using their own funds. This is not too satisfactory because of the high cost of contact lenses to an individual.

(b) Have the Agency contact a civilian firm who would supply the contact lenses to the analysts at reduced cost and the Agency provide the purchaser with a document allowing deduction of such cost from their income tax.

(c) Have the Agency undertake through a single contractor to share on a pro rata basis the cost of contact lenses.

(d) Have the Agency undertake to sustain the full cost of contact lenses for those glasses-wearing personnel engaged in tasks which would benefit from their use. Such cost could be derived from optical equipment funding.

In view of the obvious gains of analyst efficiency it is recommended that the Agency investigate the feasibility of proposals b, c, or d above.



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