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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

1. The National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) is variously engaged in the information handling field including film viewing, photo measurement, arithmetic computation, reporting, and information storage and retrieval. At present, to handle the problems involved, the Center has an Alvac III-E Computer, a complete Minicard System and an IBM 407 with its ancillary equipment.

2. Three major areas for improvement are scheduled for the immediate future; e.g.:

a. Procurement of a high capability scientific computer for NPIC is expected to begin in Fiscal Year 1962. This will permit automation of many procedures and techniques now employed in film viewing, photo measurement and arithmetic computation. Current plans call for research, development and subsequent equipment procurement which should also substantially enhance efficiency and accuracy in these three functions. Additional benefits should be achieved by automating manual plotting procedures.

b. IBM cards are prepared on all items as they are reported, proofs are sent to the editors so that as soon as possible after the initial scan is completed the report is placed on multilith mats for quantity duplication. By electronically converting the cards to five-channel teletype tape it is possible to provide the Communicators with letter-perfect tapes for direct transmission. In this area a listing capability of greater speed is required; this will be achieved in Fiscal Year 1962 by the acquisition of an IBM 1401 System.

c. NPIC's information storage and retrieval capability is tied to IBM for indexing and accessioning purposes and to Minicard for miniaturization in storage and rapid retrieval. Equipment on hand is adequate for the next five years except for the input cameras. In order to record materials expected to be collected in the next five years, a new camera is being developed capable of retaining as much as possible of the original resolution at various levels of reduction.

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