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Approved For Release 2001/08/13 : CIA-RDP78T05694A000200540012-5

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G-P/I-145

19 December 1955

MEMORANDUM TO: SA/RR

THROUGH : Chief, Geographic Research, RR

FROM : Chief, Photo Intelligence Division, RR

SUBJECT : Photographic Recording of TV Images

REFERENCE : Memorandum to [REDACTED]
1205-C-1042, 25 August 1955

DOCUMENT NO. 66

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGE NO: [REDACTED]

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2012

AUTH: HR 78-2

DATE: 3/3/82 REVIEWER: 008632

25X1A

1. This memorandum is furnished in reply to a request by [REDACTED] who wanted to know if the U.S. is currently producing cine apparatus designed to record TV screen programs.

2. The U.S. Navy, at its Photographic Center in Anacostia, D. C., has developed a piece of equipment for this purpose. It is currently being produced under contract, in limited numbers, by the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] There is no indication that this equipment is in any way camouflaged, as desired by [REDACTED]. Twenty-two units are being produced for the Navy, with several extras to be made, and the cost per unit is to be approximately [REDACTED]. The equipment is known as Type OQY-1 TV Recording Camera. Enclosed is a copy of the NPC report on their equipment, published in 1950. A talk with the authors has revealed, in their opinion, that practically all of the information in the report is still pertinent.

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3. The equipment developed by NPC is strictly for photographic recording, with no provision for sound recording. Audio is provided by means of a synchronized tape recorder.

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4. Some of the current CIA thinking on the subject of TV recording is expressed by the attached letter from [REDACTED] (OCR/RR) of 9 December 1955.

5. There are many references to published information on this subject, in unclassified technical journals and periodicals. A few of the more significant ones are listed:

"Television Filming," by V. E. Hughes, in Electronic Engineering, July 1952.

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SUBJECT: Photographic Recording of TV Images

"Television Image Kinesmatography," by W. D. Kemp, in British Kinesmatography, August 1951.

"New Video Recording Camera," by F. N. Gillette and R. A. White, in Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers Journal, June 1951.

"American Television Film Recording Equipment," by R. B. Hickman, in Television Society Journal, October to December 1950.

"Video Program Recording," by F. N. Gillette, G. W. King, and R. A. White, in Electronics, October 1950.

"Mechanics of Television Recording," by S. M. Athey, in Audio Engineering, May 1950.

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D istribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee
1 - Ch/G
1 - [REDACTED] (OCR/GR)
2 - D/GP

ACL/JWC/lr:8441(19 Dec 55)

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1205-L-1042

25 August 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Possible US Development of Camera for Photographing TV Images

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1. Recently [REDACTED] has received some photos derived from TV images obtained in Moscow. A tremendous interest has been developed, especially in JI-1 and 3, for furtherance of this type of coverage, particularly because of the expansion of the USSR TV network and regional broadcasts and also the inability of the Russians to censor the images received.

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2. The photos received were of a low order of definition and much thought is being given to techniques to improve their clarity. Over two years ago, [REDACTED] firm which manufactures apparatus specially designed for photographing TV images. This firm drew up an estimate for equipment which would have been constructed to resemble a normal home cine projector - so as not to excite suspicion. The apparatus would cost about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] felt that this is moderate when considering the intelligence value of such equipment. Nothing further was done by the [REDACTED] authorities who were concerned at the time.

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3. [REDACTED] has asked if I could ascertain whether or not development or production of such an apparatus has been carried forward in the US. [REDACTED] feels that not only is [REDACTED] rough on their budget for equipment but also feels that it would be a wasteful duplication of funds if the US has produced such equipment. This of course is all based on the premise that the US would sell or lend such equipment to [REDACTED] if available.

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4. At first blush this request would appear to be an OSI matter. However, [REDACTED] did not wish to pursue the matter as they are convinced that no scientific activities or installations would ever be televised; contrarily [REDACTED] feels that much economic information can be derived from such TV coverage.

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5. It would be most appreciated here if you could inquire and pass on whatever you may learn on this subject.

[REDACTED]

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