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TCS-15036/66

4 November 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Photo Derived Intelligence

1. During this morning's Director's Briefing the subject of "A New SAM System" located near CHANDIGARH East [redacted] India, was presented by the Collateral Support Division. Inferences were drawn that this is a new SAM system and the briefing was based on observations of structures observed on good quality, low-level aerial photography. These conclusions were developed by other than NPIC or IAD photo interpreters. The existence of this site in India along with 11 similar sites have been observed on photography and have been the subject of several NPIC publications. Although unidentified as to function it has been conjectured that this type site is associated with an adjacent firm SAM site and is probably utilized in a SAM training role.

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2. At the moment, the subject photographs have not been analyzed by the photo interpreters in either NPIC or IAD. However, yesterday several NPIC and IAD photo interpreters were shown the photographs and were queried as to the significance of the components identifiable at these sites. Since the photo interpreters were familiar with and knowledgeable of this type of facility it was judged (by the PI's) that no immediate concern or action was warranted.

3. Prematurely briefing the Director of NPIC on unevaluated intelligence developed from photography by unqualified or non-PI type personnel could be most embarrassing and detrimental to the NPIC or IAD organizations. It is of utmost concern that the Director not be placed in such a situation and all steps should be taken to prevent such an occurrence.

4. It is recommended: That intelligence or substantive analysis of photography be discontinued by CSD or any other non-PI component within the Center. That appropriate photography be made immediately available to the appropriate PI unit within the Center and that it not be unnecessarily detained or analyzed by non-responsible organizations. That photo derived intelligence not be presented to the Director unless it has been thoroughly coordinated with responsible personnel associated with the PI organizations, i.e., PAG or IAD.

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5. IAD has already received telephone calls from the Langley analysts quering IAD on the "New Type SAM Sites" observed in India. Hopefully, as little embarrassment as possible will result and other premature disclosure of unevaluated intelligence will not occur.

6. This matter has been discussed with the Chief, CSD and appropriate steps will be implemented to preclude a reoccurrence. However, because of our concern that the Director consistently has the best possible information available, it is felt that this matter should be brought to your attention.

[Redacted Name]

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Colonel, USA
Assistant for Photographic Analysis, NPIC

[Redacted Signature]

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CONCUR:

Chief, Imagery Analysis Division

4 Nov '66
Date

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