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27 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]

SUBJECT : Notes on MC&G Working Group Meeting of 20 October 1972

1. [redacted] opened the meeting (at Albert Hall, Topographic Center) by briefing the group on the "tools" that NRO has available for planning and controlling the "take" from the T-KH camera systems. He described how the various weighting factors and the weather thresholds can be manipulated in simulations before the mission and during the day-by-day review of operations. Although no one could absorb all the details, his effective presentation certainly made the group more sensitive to the potential for directing the collection operations of both the pan and the mapping camera so as to satisfy the MC&G high priority requirements.

2. The status of the coverage requirements for the 12-inch mapping camera was discussed. The requirements have been integrated sufficiently by DMA so that [redacted] can proceed with his simulations, but DMA is expecting to make some additional modifications before the final requirements are turned over. [redacted] simulation for the mapping camera "take" [redacted] provided the following results: area attempted- [redacted]

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3. [redacted] then outlined the proposal for a quick-response MC&G Area History File, using the basic data provided by Topographic Center and having [redacted] unit do the recording and reporting of MC&G collection accomplishment, supported by CIA's Cartography Division for the preparation of necessary graphics. Thanks to [redacted] previous briefings on the subject, his recommendations to establish an informal working group to study and draft out the details was accepted without any controversy.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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4. [redacted] then reported on the status of his subgroup's draft recommendation on the continuation of engineering design on the improved lens for the [redacted] [redacted] was pushing for getting this draft over to you for your approval. However, [redacted] emphasized that this was a preliminary draft which still needed to be coordinated with DIA and approved by General Penney. [redacted] the DIA representative, raised a question concerning the propriety of an expenditure for a requirement which has not been established officially. [redacted] of NRO made the point that the justification, which is needed now, for even the immediate smaller amount [redacted] must consider the alternative of using the pan photography to satisfy the requirement; furthermore, the requirement for the larger sum of buying the improved resolution cameras must be fully justified by June 1973.

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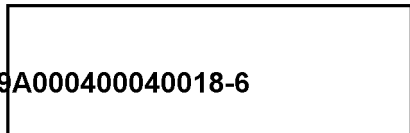
5. [redacted] of the DMA Topographic Center briefly reviewed the status of his work on handling and processing the future film from the [redacted] Since the full details of the answers that he had worked out in conjunction with EXSUBCOM and [redacted] had been appended to the minutes of the last MC&G Working Group meeting, there were only a few spot questions concerning the procedures. [redacted] was almost finished with his review, and expected to be able to brief COMIREX around the end of November. He will continue to monitor the handling and processing procedures until all the procedures are fully operational and working without hitches. [redacted] provided a one-word answer to my question why DMA was processing the film--costs. He pointed out that the cost factor was also behind farming out the processing of intelligence film to the maximum possible extent to Westover and NPIC. Earlier [redacted] had shown me some documentation indicating that NRO had initiated the request for DMA (then DIAMC) processing as far back as 1969. There is still an element of doubt about the timing of the drop of the mapping bucket. Both [redacted] now feel it will be dropped whenever it is filled, which according to [redacted] preliminary simulations should be after the third bucket. [redacted] expects to get a definitive answer on the timing in his next trip to the West Coast.

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6. With respect to the agenda item on procedures for handling MC&G guidance to NRO developmental efforts, [redacted] outlined the substance of the two attached drafts, which he had drawn up on the basis of suggestions from [redacted] (who reflected the views of the NRO staff). The general concepts of the MC&G Working Group developing explicit justifications in terms of the degree of need and the savings of time, manpower, and costs for the specific requirements, and passing the justifications and recommendations through the Chairman, COMIREX, for NRO study of potential feasibility, cost, and impact were accepted without discussion. [redacted] pointed out that the results of the NRO studies will furnish the basis for the final COMIREX review and guidance. Subsequently, [redacted] indicated to [redacted] that adherence to these procedures would make NRO's job easier. Copies of the two memoranda have been given to [redacted]

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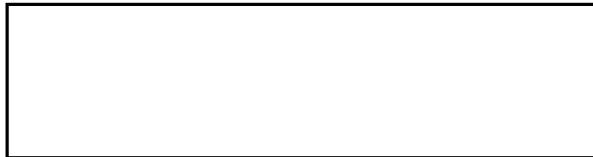
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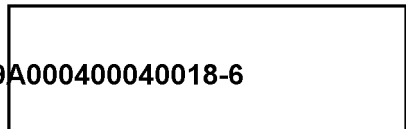
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7. In view of the extended briefings and discussions characteristic of recent Working Group meetings, [redacted] indicated a more frequent scheduling in the future until the backlog is cleared up.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Draft Procedures for the MC&G Working Group in Handling Requirements through the COMIREX

REFERENCE : Draft Memo to the Director, NRO Staff, from the Chairman, COMIREX

1. For the immediate and near future, guidance and justification statements not included in formal COMIREX papers for USIB review will follow the procedures outlined in reference.

2. Also, as indicated in reference, the MC&G Working Group will be responsible for developing any necessary revision of collection requirements to be included in the COMIREX Long Range Guidance for NRO Fiscal Planning, including the degree and the nature of the need for meeting these requirements. Horizontal and vertical accuracies for MC&G materials for specified support over the next five years should be described, with indication of the seriousness of short-comings if improvements in current and assured improvements in collection configurations can be demonstrated to make these accuracies unobtainable.

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3. In each case, explicit justifications for the resultant mapping, charting, and point-positioning data should be given in terms of recognized over-all military support needs, in terms of priorities. Where would there be MC&G benefits, in terms of savings in time, manpower, and costs, in the next five-year period, if improvements were developed to meet newly stated accuracy and area coverage requirements?

4. Cogent, annual submissions by the Working Group for inclusion in the over-all COMIREX guidance for NRO fiscal planning would provide the basis for action by the NRO.

5. Meanwhile, as developments might dictate, justifications and recommendations for specific improvements by the NRO will continue to be submitted by the Working Group through the Chairman, COMIREX, for NRO study in terms of potential feasibility, cost, and impact. The NRO response will furnish the basis for COMIREX review and guidance to the NRO.

6. With respect to the procedures outlined above, it is understood that there will be frequent and informal interchange of ideas between DMA scientists and technicians in the MC&G field and NRO staff in order to identify, and expedite the presentation of justifications for, potential NRO research and developmental projects of interest to the MC&G community.

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18 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, NRO Staff

SUBJECT : Handling of Guidance on MC&G Requirements for NRO Technical Developments and Revised Photographic Coverage

REFERENCES : a. Memorandum for Director, NRO Staff, from Chairman, COMIREX, 27 September 1971

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b. Memorandum for the Chairman, COMIREX, from the Acting Chairman, MC&G Working Group, 21 April 1972

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1. Last year, in reference a, COMIREX noted MC&G interests in several NRO potential developments in addition to its response to your request of 22 March 1971 directed to the Chairman, MC&G Working Group.

2. At the present time, in contrast to last year, you will receive through me, from time to time, separate statements from the MC&G Working Group, each of which will have been

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developed to indicate the degree of need to the MC&G community and the justifications for individual potential improvements, some of which may relate to ~~some of those~~ mentioned in reference b. It is assumed that there will be a continuation of exchange of views between the MC&G Working Group and the NRO for the purpose of identifying potential improvements and their feasibility~~es~~.

3. It is requested that, subsequent to NRO study of these statements, the COMIREX be provided with NRO's findings with respect to the general feasibility in relation to timing, potential costs, and possible impact on primary intelligence missions of improvements discussed in these MC&G Working Group statements.

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4. The COMIREX will then report to you its views on the advisability of pursuing the research and development required to meet the MC&G requirements in each case.

5. It is anticipated that future long-range guidance for NRO fiscal planning in the MC&G field will form an integral part or an appendix to the overall guidance that will be submitted next year by the COMIREX to the NRO through the USIB. The MC&G guidance will include such revision of MC&G collection requirements as may be needed, with statements of the degree and nature of need *in for* meeting these requirements, along with related factual data; and MC&G requirements for development of technical improvements considered necessary to meet its needs.

[Redacted]

Chairman, COMIREX

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[Redacted]