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CC (ODA - CTP)

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25 April 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [Redacted]

SUBJECT : Comments on 22 April NRO Draft Memorandum for Chairman, COMIREX -- Imagery Reconnaissance Requirements

1. The main question posed for us by the NRO draft memorandum is whether we (and the COMIREX) wish to propose that USIB revise its KH-4 "requirements" as presently expressed. A decision not to revise the "requirement" was implied by the action in February 1969 which simply removed the controversial five per cent limit on allocation of film for "current intelligence purposes." The "requirement" recommended by COMIREX and approved by USIB in 1966 was ill-advised in the first instance. It was illogical in concept, oversimplified in content, and invalid as a statement of guidance usefully conveying the community's needs and objectives for KH-4 coverage. It is unclear, however, whether the actual performance of the KH-4 was affected in any substantial way. Nevertheless, it has been apparent since 1966 that the KH-4 "requirement" was ineffective as a representation of community objectives and as guidance for the operation. And the advent of CTP has no bearing on these basic deficiencies. The choice now is whether we ask USIB to correct the error of 1966 or whether we continue to suffer along as we have for the past three years and make our first move with a good statement of guidance applicable [Redacted] to the KH-4 [Redacted]

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2. The NRO proposition only perpetuates the misconception and misinterpretations of the 1966 requirement. If we are to make any real progress in improving our guidance for the KH-4, we must renounce the old "requirements" approaches and develop a paper possibly along the lines of the draft paper now under study. Tinkering with the words in the NRO draft will likely be unproductive--because they derive from misunderstanding of what our objectives are. If we must have a paper from NRO on this subject some proposed changes are noted on the attachment.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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