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INTELLIGENCE VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY  
OBTAINABLE THRU AQUATONE

SUMMARY

1. Successful operation of AQUATONE will yield photographic, [redacted] and in many cases unique -- value bearing on the highest priority national intelligence objectives.

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2. The results of limited similar operation in the past indicate that information will be obtained that will:

a. Expand and clarify our knowledge of existing Soviet offensive weapons systems and forces. This will reduce the chance of surprise if these systems and forces were to be employed in the near future, and reduce the probability of successful Soviet attack against objectives in the U.S. or key overseas installations. The same benefit to our knowledge of Soviet defensive weapon systems and military defensive forces is to be expected. This will increase the probability of U.S. forces successfully delivering nuclear attacks, and help minimize attrition to our strike forces.

b. Expand and clarify our knowledge of certain Soviet weapon system research and development programs. This would reduce the chance of future technological surprise.

c. Enable us to develop more realistic target priorities lists. By discovering new targets, confirming known targets, and revealing the increase or decrease in importance of other targets, a greater efficiency of U.S. weapon systems application can be achieved.

d. Provide the essential information for planning the composition and employment of U.S. military forces and for the conduct of major operations in the event of full scale war against the USSR.

DISCUSSION:

3. In the following discussion, points which can be illustrated by reference to specific targets are referenced and numbered so that they can be identified geographically at Tab A. These targets are directly related to highest Priority National Intelligence Objectives. It must be emphasized that the targets are by no means the total list of such targets, are not listed in order of priority within themselves and are submitted only for illustration. The discussion seeks to explain what can be accomplished by AQUATONE which will make a vital difference to our national security.

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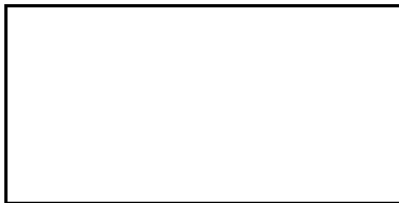
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4. Soviet Offensive Weapon System: At present some of our highest priority national intelligence objectives are concerned with an accurate measurement of the Soviet capability to strike into the continental United States. A comprehensive photographic survey of the home bases of the Soviet Long Range Air Armies and major submarine bases would permit a more precise measurement of this threat than is now possible. It should be possible to obtain:

a. A census of long range bomber aircraft by number and type on operational bases.

b. An assessment of the present capability of the Soviet base structure to support bomber operations. This would lead directly to a more precise measurement of the scale of a maximum effort attack.

The following airfields are illustrative of key long range bomber bases:



c. An assessment of present capability of Soviet nuclear powered and/or guided missile equipped submarine forces.

The following submarine bases are illustrative:



5. Essential to any comprehensive measurement of Soviet strike capabilities is accurate information on its long range bomber and submarine production. Photography of a comparatively small number of key production facilities will provide accurate data against which we can check the validity of existing production estimates. For Example:



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