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OIA [ ] 044/94  
15 February 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Executive Director  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology  
FROM: Ward R. Swain  
Chief, Special Studies Division, OIA/NPIC/DS&T  
SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

1. Action Requested: None. This is in response to your questions about imagery analysis related to Noah's Ark.

2. Background: The Office of Imagery Analysis (OIA), National Photographic Interpretation Center, DS&T, has no active project searching imagery of Mt. Ararat, Turkey, for evidence of Noah's Ark. We have responded to ad hoc requests from the DCI's office on this topic in the past. At the direction of DCI Gates, OIA in 1992 searched for the Ark on imagery routinely collected of the Mt. Ararat area between November 1990 and January 1992. That search revealed nothing conclusive; only two areas of apparent rock formations protruding through existing snow and ice. We subsequently received a request dated 15 January 1993 from [ ] that was forwarded to former DCI Gates [ ] Acting DCI Studeman's Special Assistant [ ] directed on 21 January 1993 that further work on this topic be put on hold until further notice.

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3. We are unaware of anyone pressing for analysis of extant imagery of Mt. Ararat in an attempt to locate the Ark except for the requests we have discussed above.

4. We doubt that a thorough search of imagery of Mt. Ararat for evidence of the Ark would be conclusive. With its summit at over 15,000 feet of elevation, Mt. Ararat is snow and ice covered virtually year round. Viewing conditions over the mountain vary by season--the months of July and August typically would be the

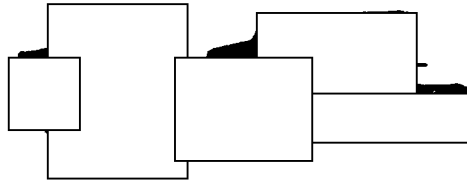
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SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

months of least snow and ice cover. An exhaustive analysis would require the review of all imagery collected by National Technical Means over Mt. Ararat over the past approximately 30 years. Imagery of the area from the past 18 months is at hand; the remainder is not readily available but could be retrieved from the imagery archives within about four to six weeks. Once the imagery was available, we estimate it would take half an analyst-year to complete the analysis.

5. A search of the imagery archives for coverage of Mt. Ararat, Turkey, would not require DCI approval.



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(15 Feb 1994)