2 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Special Operations Division

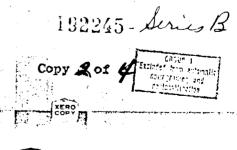
SUBJECT:

Project OMYGAS

- 1. This report is submitted for information only. Per attachments 1 and 2, the nature of the Project and its progress to date are such that broad spectrum attention to 1t may be indicated at a later date.
- 2. Project ONYGAS was conceived for the purpose of exploring feasibility of utilizing the bottle-nose dolphin (Tursious truncatus) in underwater attacks against enemy shipping. POD/NR and URD/LS (PDSAY) are co-sponsoring ONYGAS with ORD/LS having contracted (\$97,870) through

for the exploration plus providing technical guidance and SOD/ME providing the necessary operational input.

- 3. At the outset, the OKYGAS concept and the modest investment were considered more than justifiable providing feasibility could be demonstrated to deliver a simulated weapons package over an open sea distance to a propeller of a moored PT boat. Obviously, if the PT boat attack system can be developed, many spill-over areas of interest will then appear feasible such as: attacks on varieties of ship types; harbor and coastal reconnaissance through photographic means; specialized ELINT functions; certain types of resupply operations; placement of sonar, acoustic, and seismic buoys; placement of rocket detection units, and RF, UV, DW, CW sensors and trace element collectors.
- 4. As is known, the Agency and the Navy have spent considerable time and money developing swimmer delivery systems to accomplish these same purposes with the end-product being of marginal effectiveness at best.
- 5. As a matter of interest, it is estimated that the combined Agency/Navy annual costs in maintaining marginally effective swimmer attack systems run in excess of five million collars for the swimmers and specialized equipment alone. This estimate does not include support shipping or outfitting costs. Not an inconsiderable factor in a manned system is the physical danger to the man in exposing himself to an unnatural environment with or without the additional hegard of enemy action.



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- 6. Progress to date with OXYGAS has been so encouraging that it is now doesed appropriate to invite high level attention to the project. If, as expected by both ORD/LS and SOD/MB, feasibility of the use of dolphins in this fashion can be demonstrated, guidance and support of moderate magnitude will be required if the concept is to be transformed from a technical feasibility stage to an operational system.
- 7. Assuming feasibility is demonstrated, SCD/MB feels the OXYCAS concept should be developed into an operational system. In this context it should be understood that the delphin cannot be expected to completely replace the man in the water. The delphin should, however, be expected to obviate the need for a major portion of our man-effort with a resultant considerable short and long-range dellar saving and many other advantages.

Chief, Maritime Eranca Special Operations Division

Attachments:

- 1. Memo
- 2. Look

Distribution:

1-3 - C/SOD

425 - MB/SOD

