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D R A F T

8 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Bissell

SUBJECT: Purposes of ARCON

The other day you asked certain basic questions regarding ARCON. Set forth below are the questions and the answers as I understand them, after coordination with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

1. Question: What is the purpose of ARCON? Is its purpose limited to the attainment of a new comprehensive worldwide grid and new geoid? Does it have as a dual purpose the identification of specific targets within the USSR?

Answer: The justification of ARCON is based entirely on the object of obtaining photographs of the earth which can be reduced to a worldwide survey, establishing a worldwide mathematical reference datum. This datum and pictorial reference file will be used for determining the location of targets. Although target identification information might be obtained from the ARCON photography, we believe that this is unlikely in view of the small scale and poor resolution of the photography. Such target identification information will probably be secured almost entirely from other sources. Therefore target identification as well as other intelligence data are not objectives of this program, but might be obtained as by-products.

2. Question: Is the main military purpose to be fulfilled through the world grid, the attainment of closer geodetic ties between our missile launch sites and priority targets?

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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Answer: Yes.

3. Question: Why is it essential to have the worldwide grid described above?

Answer: The purpose of the grid is to obtain accurately located reference points throughout the Eurasian land mass in its entirety to which targets can be referenced to within 750 feet, this to be achieved through the correlation of target photography primarily from other sources with ARCON photographs. Although targets may be located near the borders of the USSR within 750' by conventional extensions from known points, this is not possible to anything approaching the same accuracy for targets within the interior.

4. Question: Why is it essential to conduct the ARCON flights during the summer of 1960 instead of at a later time?

Answer: The lead times are such that the world grid and corrected missile target sheets will not be obtained for about 12 months after successful photography is attained. Our IGM's are programmed to have a CPE in which the 750' or less target location errors become significant by 1961-2. Thus target location info from CORONA, SKYVIEW and other sources should have available the known reference points throughout the USSR by 1961 in order to provide the ties within 750' by 1961-2.

5. Question: Does the ARCON program include the correlation of existing photography of known targets so that these will be geodetically located under the program?

Answer: Yes. The purpose of ARCON includes, when the world grid is made available, the immediate location of identified targets on this single world datum. The initial locationing of targets will be accomplished under the presently funded program by AMS in conjunction with

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