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1 4 DEC 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : NRO Film Processing

1. The NRO now depends on the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and the Air Force Special Projects Processing Laboratory in Westover, Massachusetts, for processing of the film produced by most NRO programs. According to the memorandum of understanding regarding processing and reproduction of photography signed on 11 August 1962, the [REDACTED] covert processing facility under CIA is to be utilized for processing all original negative materials, some film duplication, and R&D of new processing techniques for both laboratories. Westover is to be "utilized to produce duplicates for distribution to users."

2. In connection with the FY 1965 NRO budget review, it is necessary that this policy be reaffirmed or modified by joint agreement so that we can comment properly on your budgetary proposals. We have inquired several times about this area, but have received no clear response. This causes us some concern in view of your proposed annual report to the PFIAB which makes little distinction between the two facilities. We note further that an operational readiness inspection is to be held at AFSPPL in January, 1965, to demonstrate its capability "executing 'womb-to-tomb' processing of CORONA production at the earliest practicable time." Your several references to the "excessive" overtime at the [REDACTED] facility is another indication that you may be proposing to recommend reconsiderations of the original distribution of responsibilities between [REDACTED] and AFSPPL.

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

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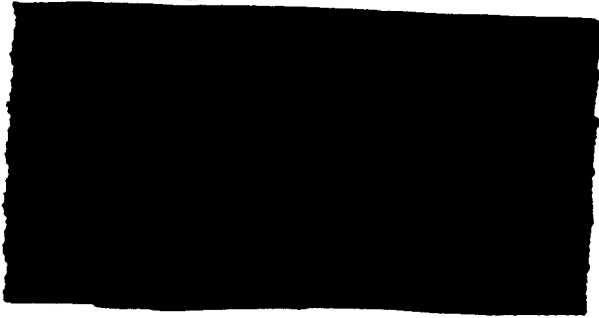
3. I therefore request that you brief the JRO Executive Committee at your earliest opportunity, and subsequently appropriate members of my staff, on your plans and proposals for utilization of the two film processing facilities.

(Signed) JOHN A. McCONE

John A. McCone
Director

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense

Distribution:



[REDACTED] (10 Dec 64)
Rewritten: DCI and DDCI [REDACTED] bec

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

~~SECRET~~

10 December 1964

General Carter:

I have examined the basic documents on AFSPPL and [redacted] with [redacted] help, especially the recent PFIAB report from NRO. I believe that the attached letter is right to the point and should be sent. On the other hand, I would defer to your tactical redraft, if you think it appropriate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. D. Wheelon".

Albert D. Wheelon
Deputy Director

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