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DEC 19 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

FROM : Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT : Exhibit for Smithsonian Institution (U)

REFERENCES : A. Memorandum from Allen Riggs to Director, NPIC
Subject: Corona Display Equipment Summary,
dated 18 March 1976

B. Letter from Michael Collins to DCI, dated
21 January 1976

C. Letter from DDS&T to Michael Collins, dated
18 February 1976

1. NPIC is in possession of a nearly complete Corona camera and film return system. This display was made some years ago from manufacturing spares and is functional excepting some mock up equipment. (Ref A) (S)

2. In January 1976 the Director of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, who was officially aware of this exhibit, requested that title to the exhibit and associated Corona photographs be given to the Smithsonian for their use in a public display. (Ref B). In February 1976 the Deputy Director of Science and Technology, CIA responded to this request. He noted that the exhibit was classified Secret, but offered either to transfer it to the Smithsonian for their custody in Secret storage until it should be declassified or, alternatively that NPIC would keep it until it could be declassified at which time it would be transferred to the Smithsonian. (Ref C) (S)

3. Following the President's announcement of the fact of satellite photo reconnaissance, representatives of the Smithsonian have again verbally requested that the display be furnished, to include representative imagery. (U)

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on NOV 26 1997

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4. As to providing imagery I believe that decision should await the outcome of current studies now being conducted for the DCI on the subject of decompartmentation/declassification of satellite imagery with respect to the President's space policy. (C)

5. With respect to the Corona hardware, the first step is to determine if it should in fact still be classified. Request that NRO Security Staff inspect this hardware to make this determination. If it is determined that the hardware is in fact unclassified, I then propose to initiate appropriate coordinating action within the community to transfer this display to the Smithsonian. It is my understanding that they desire to use this hardware in a new display being planned for early spring of 1979, therefore your prompt assistance in making such a determination would be appreciated. (S)

6. The NPIC point of contact is [REDACTED] who can be reached on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] (U)

[REDACTED]

Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

Distribution:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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