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11 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, EPB-DD/P
SUBJECT : Simultaneous COMCHA/IDEALIST Coverage

1. PURPOSE: Simultaneous coverage of typical intelligence targets in the EI by COMCHA and IDEALIST would permit a critical analysis of the capabilities and limitations of these collection systems. For example, a precise aircraft count in conjunction with identification by IDEALIST would produce a yardstick or key by which the information content of COMCHA could be compared.

2. APPROACH: One of the next COMCHA "engineering" passes over the EI will be carefully programmed to permit coordination with [redacted] for an IDEALIST mission over the same area at the same time. The IDEALIST personnel need not know the reason for the mission, but should be prepared for a general "test" ahead of time. When the COMCHA orbit and on-off points are established, last minute corrections to the flight lines can be supplied to [redacted]. From a quick look, it appears that one COMCHA engineering pass will be close to Warren AFB (for ICBM construction) and then over Lowry AFB. These areas should produce very good target information for analysis and is within easy reach of Edwards AFB.

3. GENERAL: This item has been verbally initiated among interested Headquarters personnel and is being planned for the next COMCHA mission.

SIGNED

[redacted] Jr.
Major USAF

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