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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF



27 January 1969

Who pays
the bill?
Don't
understand
why DIA
or USIB
are involved
in photography
of
U.S.
off

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: ARGO Sponsored Civil Agency Requests for High Altitude Photography of the U. S.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the U. S. Geological Service and the U. S. Forestry Service have requested U-2/SR-71 coverage of portions of the United States through Dr. Steininger's ARGO Steering Committee. (TAB A).

BACKGROUND

Dr. Steininger has been advocating the use of U-2 type domestic coverage in lieu of satellite coverage for civil agency use. The U. S. Geological Survey has responded and sent the attached request to the NRO Staff through Dr. Steininger. This request and a similar one, which was given initially to Mr. Tidwell, were discussed with [redacted] DIAXX by Colonel Worthman and the undersigned. [redacted] agreed that a procedure within the DOD should be set up to handle such requests and he felt that his office working with the JRC could establish the required procedures. He also felt that there should be no problem in meeting the Geological Survey's request for photography of the Florida Everglades, or the Forestry's request for photographic coverage of the snow covered areas feeding the American and Kern rivers.

RECOMMENDATION

No DNRO action is required at this time. We will continue to keep you informed of further developments along these lines.

William E. Williamson
WILLIAM E. WILLIAMSON
LtColonel, U.S.A.

William E. Williamson *Carberg*

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JAN 10 1969

Lt. Col. W. E. Williamson
SAFSS
Room 4C 1000
Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Col. Williamson:

During the past months, discussions have evolved between members of your office and members of the Topographic Division, Special Projects Office regarding acquisition of classified high altitude aircraft photography from training missions to augment USGS mapping programs and resource studies.

The USGS is currently negotiating with the State of Florida for mapping a large area of the Florida Everglades. Because of the inaccessability, terrain type and sparse array of geodetic control in this area, it is the considered opinion of the USGS that the availability of high altitude photography taken with a 6-inch cartographic camera would be extremely useful in the conduct of this mapping project to establish mapping control. Accordingly, we submit for your review and consideration a request for photography covering the area outlined on the enclosed maps (1:250,000-scale and Planning Map). Also, we have enclosed for your information a Flight Design Work Sheet outlining desired flight parameters.

The photography would be maintained in the Special Projects Office secure facility in Reston, Virginia, under the auspices of Mr. [redacted]. All mensuration and compilation work would be handled at the appropriate security level. The finished map product will be compiled from conventional unclassified photography.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Director Research

Enclosures

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