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WASHINGTON, D.C.

18 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL ALLEN

SUBJECT: Planned Operation of the KH-9 System Versus
MC&G Requirements

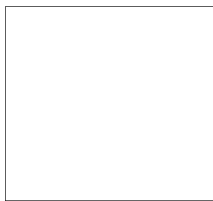
BACKGROUND

The ACIC document attached to the AFNIN letter at Tab B has a particularly greasy history. It was provided to DIA with the caveat "Air Force Eyes Only" and concurrently circulated at NPIC. As you can imagine, this caused Col Lloyd Rall some little consternation. To my knowledge, its appearance in this office constitutes its first official airing outside of the Air Force MC&G community.

In January, we were queried by AFNIN (Tab C) as to the number of KH-9 frame camera missions necessary to accomplish worldwide coverage. The attachment to the AFNIN letter at Tab C reflects that DIAMC denied the Air Force development of a full 120° scan rectifier in favor of a less expensive option in cooperation with the Army. The development of the 120° rectifier, according to Col Rall, could cost \$4.5M, based on continuously escalating estimates. We provided an 8 to 12 mission estimate to AFNIN (Tab D) based on data supplied by SS-4. A recent analysis of this type appears at Tab E. This analysis would indicate the 8 to 12 mission estimate is conservative.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Mahoney from ACIC is apparently off on his old crusade to show that frame materials are not needed to produce quality maps, a battle which has gone on in the DOD MC&G community for some time. In my experience in that community, he was never able to prove his point in production. It has further been my experience that he sometimes displays a disturbing amount of fancy footwork in attempting to get what he wants and woe betide the technically naive at the higher staff levels.



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In the memo at TAB A, I have attempted to take issue with only those sections of Dr. Mahoney's paper which come within the purview of the NRO. I feel that the memo should go to DIAMC in order to get his other arguments into the DOD MC&G arena where they are more properly resolved. Some of his arguments may have some merit and could result in a refinement of MC&G acquisition requirements in conjunction with our efforts in refining KH-9 capabilities and operations as the system develops over the next two years.

As this matter has perhaps already reached too high a level than is appropriate, I do not think it should be referred to Dr. McLucas.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the memorandum for [redacted] at TAB A be signed and dispatched.



ROBERT A. SCHOW, JR.
Major, CE, U. S. Army

Atchs

- ✓ TAB A, Memo for [redacted]
- ✓ TAB B, TCS 295137-69
- ✓ TAB C, TCS 295007-69 (PRO A-6-a)
- ✓ TAB D, TCS 37562-69 (PRO A-6-a)
- ✓ TAB E, M/R, 3 Jun 69,
- ✓ HEX 12-inch SI Camera

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