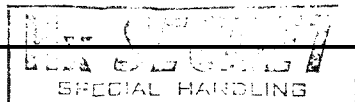


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20 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Projects**SUBJECT : Telephone Call from Mr. Harry Gewertz
on 19 December 1966**

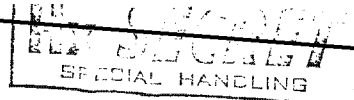
1. Mr. Harry Gewertz assisted as a consultant in the evaluation of the HEX proposals and previously has been associated with national reconnaissance with CIA in a number of different ways. Most recently he served on the Director's Optics Panel under the Kinzel Committee.

2. Gewertz called to ask how HEX was coming along and to make a recommendation on an action he thought we ought to initiate. Through various contacts, Mr. Gewertz claims to know that P-E is having serious difficulty staffing the HEX Program. He further said he had serious concern about P-E's ability to meet the 29-month schedule per the proposal. He recommended that we seriously investigate ways of farming out chunks of the HEX sensor subsystem to Itek. He also claimed to know that Itek has a capable manpower pool currently available for such activity and that they have just recently completed a large optical facility which might be put to work in the HEX context.

3. I told Mr. Gewertz that we had visited Itek shortly after the HEX decision and solicited from them suggestions on basic R&D activities to carry forward and also encouraged them to contact P-E with proposals relative to the HEX Program. I told Gewertz that we had received little or no response to these overtures. Gewertz claimed to have known of this and said that these suggestions received a very cold reception at Itek. He then took the position that both companies were too proud to get together on this issue and what was really needed was direct intervention in the national interest to insure that all assets available were being harnessed to guarantee



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the successful prosecution of this nationally important program. I assured him that we were aware of Itek capabilities and had under consideration several actions with respect to Itek. I further informed him that the other HEX associate contractors had not yet been approved by Dr. Flax; therefore it was difficult to develop program plans and definitive schedules at this time.

4. Mr. Gewertz has had for a long time close association with Itek both as a company and on a personal basis with individuals in the company. His evaluation of the two proposals appeared objective in every instance; however, it is possible that he has had specific discussions on the above matter with Itek management. I am not sure how much weight Gewertz carries in the community at large but it is possible that his recommendation, phrased in the terms it was phrased, might be used as a spring board for later criticism if indeed we neglect an asset which could support a more efficient and timely prosecution of HEXAGON.

Original signed by:

Leslie C. Dirks

LESLIE C. DIRKS

Chief, Design and Analysis Division
Office of Special Projects

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