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5 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Roland Inlow, EOI

Attached per our telecon is my try at a draft statement which I think should be called to the attention of our superiors. I'm not sure just exactly what you think the best form would be in the event that we get agreement from the members of the "sewing circle" but I would think such a memo would be signed by you as chairman of the group. I have not circulated copies of this and leave to you how best to do this.

E. H. KNOCHE  
Deputy Director of Current Intelligence

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller  
Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Science and  
Technology

SUBJECT : EOI

1. Those of us who are members of the special committee established at the direction of the Executive Director-Comptroller to provide planning guidance for those developing the EOI system are in fact representatives of the production offices of the Intelligence Directorate and the Science & Technology Directorate and from NPIC and OPPB as well. It is our understanding at this point in time that the plans call for construction of a processing facility (PF)  at a place yet to be determined and for the assignment to the PF of a select group of photo interpreters from NPIC to work at the processing facility and make initial judgments about the intelligence findings and about the quality of coverage. The initial scan by these PIs will be followed within a reasonable time by the delivery of photographic prints to the various PI shops in the community. It is understood that this arrangement will constitute an initial operating capability and that in

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due course it will be arranged that the processing facility and NPIC (or something like NPIC) will be collocated. It is our understanding that the initial operating capability will exist in about the middle of 1975 and that an eventual collocation is not likely before 1977.

2. The committee is concerned about this situation. The assignment of NPIC PIs at the PF will tend to diffuse PI skills by taking expert PIs away from the national center. The assignment separates these PIs from other PI skills and expertise in the national center, divorces them from data bases at the center, dilutes the prospects for keeping these PIs au courant on an all-source basis, and takes the PIs away from the center where EOI take can be compared with other photo materials coming from such systems as KH-8, KH-9 and aircraft.

3. To the committee it seems clear that the intelligence needs would best be served by the collocation of a national center in the PF. The EOI system promises to be so effective and to meet so many demands and we believe that anything less than the best possible exploitation arrangements can only detract from the effectiveness of the EOI system.

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4. The committee has no desire to deflect or extend the current planning for an operational EOI system in mid-1975. We do believe, however, that the Agency should do all that is possible to study the alternatives to a splintering of the PI force through assignment of a small detachment at the PF. For example, can a new NPIC facility be ready closer to mid-1975 than to 1977?

5. The committee also feels that the time has come for the closest consultation between the Agency and DOD intelligence components to develop, if possible, a common approach to EOI exploitation planning. DOD elements obviously have much at stake in whatever arrangements are agreed. At this stage DOD reactions and inputs should prove valuable and should eliminate any possibility of major changes in those plans at a later date.

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