

~~TOP SECRET~~SS-1  
HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

3 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL ALLEN, SAFSP

SUBJECT: NPIC Investigation of Alternative Exploitation  
Concepts for the Film Readout GAMBIT SystemREFERENCE: WHIG 0739, 9 June 1971, subj: Processing,  
Distribution and Feed-back Cycles for the  
Film Readout GAMBIT System

In response to the referenced message, NPIC has conducted a study of alternative exploitation concepts which might be used for the proposed Film Readout GAMBIT System. The results of this study are herewith forwarded as Attachment 1.

Although the study is considered a creditable effort and highly responsive to the NRO request, there are some shortcomings worthy of mention. For example, consideration of the effects of a satellite at 85 NM or in a crisis response repeating orbit has not been formally addressed although NPIC (E. Deitel) has indicated such operational modes will not greatly affect the results for any option. Secondly, Option 4 considers the use of a 777 relay for retransmission only from BOS and COOK. The use of KODI as well was previously presented as the relay option by SAFSP and would certainly affect the response times and resources associated with this option. Also, an option for direct readout to the Washington, D.C. area might have been useful in comparing the various readout/exploitation cycles.

It is requested that you review the attached documents and provide comments as to adequacy/shortcomings so that any necessary retasking might be effected.

As added information, the results of the subject study have been inputted to the COMIREX Ad Hoc Group which is also addressing the questions posed in the referenced message. A review of the work of this group (on which we have membership) indicates that the NRT data requirements (what/when/where) are compatible with the NPIC study results thereby

GAMBIT  
HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM~~TOP SECRET~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING  
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO. BYE-12999-71

WORKING COPY  
2  
2

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM

creating no major impacts to the "baseline" system proposed by SAFSP. We expect that the formalized COMIREX requirements will be available within the next month.

*David D. Bradburn*

DAVID D. BRADBURN  
Colonel, USAF  
Director

Attachments

- 1. BYE-3304/71,  
and BYE-3306/71.

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING  
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO BYE-12999-71  
COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES  
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES