

~~TOP SECRET~~



(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE NRO STAFF

4 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL KULPA

SUBJECT: TAC ROC I-143 for [redacted] Acquisition Use by
Tactical Air Command

The NRO/CIA had a funded project for about 2-3 years with [redacted] during the time frame of 1968-71. The project was cancelled because it just wasn't going any place. ~~Delete~~ These people were reported to be very nonchalant about the program. They would not tell the government how the process was done saying that it was proprietary and the government had no rights. The goals established were not met with the contractor saying - well I guess that's as far as we can go - if you like it fine, if not - .

The scope of the effort as shown on page four seems that it could be obtained. There is some concern here - the AEI is >20. The NRO efforts [redacted] to an AEI of ~2. Resolving power at 200 c/mm high contrast is obtainable but this is approximately 100 c/mm at low contrast. The package life of 12 months with an AEI of >20 will be a problem as well as latent image stability which was a problem with the NRO/CIA project.

I believe the goals are obtainable and a dry process is a must for the tactical community.

We are presently testing [redacted] silver dupe material at AFSPPF which looks very promising. I'm sure we could help them out with this product.

[redacted]
WESLEY D. OWENS
Lt Colonel, USAF

HANDLE VIA [redacted] CONTROL SYSTEM

CLASSIFIED EXCEPT FROM GENERAL DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY E22 DECLASSIFY ON RMP DET.

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15 October 73



After reading the attached
I would appreciate it if you would
return my memo and Col Owens' memo.

John E. Kulpa, Jr.
Brig/General, USAF

15 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR B/GEN HODNETTE, DCS/R&D 5C1075

Reference your note of 3 Oct concerning the proposed effort for dry processing of silver film.

Attached is a copy of Lt Col [redacted] memo to me which discusses our activities [redacted] film. I think it is self-explanatory but would like to add that we would be happy to provide additional information or help in any way that we can.

In addition to dry processing of silver film we have been working on non-silver film for the last few years. This film processing involves the use of amine organic dyes rather than silver haloid and it is sometimes called the free radical film by [redacted]. This type of film has a long history and has been sponsored by the government for at least the last ten years. When I was [redacted] sponsored contracts with [redacted] for using the film as a duplicating material. During this time period there were some substantial problems associated with the free radical process. Recently it appears that we have had a breakthrough and I have high hopes for some revolutionary products in the near future. We are holding reports on recent progress very tightly and consider them extremely sensitive; however, I would be happy to personally provide you and Dave McCall with a short briefing. When the current development program on this process is complete (in 3 to 5 years) I would expect that it would be made available to all users, both national and tactical.

John E. Kulpa, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

Attachment
Memo [redacted] Kulpa 40Oct73

To be read and
returned to SAFS

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