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WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE MRO STAFF

22 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Letter from Mr. Helms to Dr. Hornig, dated 13 December 1966, re: Establishment of a Seminar Composed of Scientists from Civil Agencies to Study Uses of TKH Photography

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of Mr. Helms' letter to Dr. Hornig. (Attached).

BACKGROUND

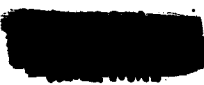
Dr. Hornig proposed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Autometrics in conjunction with their own geographic surveys, provide advice and support to teams of economic and resource experts nominated by Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, NASA, and AID, in his memorandum of November 7, 1966. (TAB A).

This memorandum was answered for DOD by Mr. Vance on December 7, 1966 (TAB B). Mr. Vance agreed in principle with Dr. Hornig's proposal and stated that DIA would provide DOD representation to define detailed plans for this program with Dr. Hornig's office, NASA, and the Corps of Engineers.

In preparing Mr. Vance's reply to Dr. Hornig, DIA informally contacted CIA and were told that they did not wish to have NPIC involved in this effort, and that it looked as if Dr. Hornig's proposal to start exposing the scientific community to TKH material through the Army Engineers was sound.

DISCUSSION

Apparently, the contracts that DIA made with the CIA did not reflect the thinking of the DCI.



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Mr. Helms' letter gives the impression that if any TKH facility other than NPIC were used, it could jeopardize the security system. The letter also indicates that only NPIC is aware of the practical problems of exploiting photography for a variety of purposes.

Colonel L. L. Rall, DIAMC, has discussed Mr. Helms' letter with Dr. Steininger of Dr. Hornig's staff. Dr. Steininger reported to Colonel Rall that he and Dr. Hornig did not agree that CIA should sponsor the program. Dr. Steininger stated that in all probability Dr. Hornig would send a memorandum to Mr. Vance and Mr. Helms requesting that the program be sponsored by the U.S. Army Engineers as proposed, but that CIA assign a security officer to the project.

RECOMMENDATION

No NRO action is required.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Major, U.S.A.

Attachments  
TABS A, B,  
Attached Ltr

[REDACTED]

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