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Declassification Authority

In Accordance with

on NOV 26 1997

31 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : 31 July COMIREX Re NRO KH-4 UTB/STB and High/Low Analysis

1. [REDACTED] noted further information on this subject was due from NRO, in particular the area coverage provided by UTB at low altitude.

2. [REDACTED] replied the CIA and NRO had data, and he desired to have [REDACTED] on hand, but [REDACTED] was out on the Coast with the [REDACTED] source selection board. [REDACTED] then turned to me and asked if [REDACTED] was indeed away. I said he was; however, [REDACTED] had worked closely with [REDACTED] before [REDACTED] departure, and [REDACTED] was fully prepared to represent [REDACTED] should there be any time pressure. [REDACTED] shrugged with his hands and looked at Inlow, who looked back at [REDACTED]. Obviously, [REDACTED] thought was let's get on with it.

3. The discussion then evolved as follows:

[REDACTED]

Our group is trying to determine an optimum KH-4 schedule using the COMIREX requirements as now stated taking into account operational considerations. We have this data and some alternatives. /At this point, it was obvious [REDACTED] was unclear as to whether the NRO planned further elaboration on the UTB/STB High/Low table which omitted the UTB low option/.

[REDACTED]

I believe there may have been an earlier misunderstanding. At this time, USIB has no requirement or statement as such on the books regarding the quality of KH-4 photography. The development of the [REDACTED] system, however, obviously reflects the fact that quality

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~TOP SECRET~~

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as well as quantity is an important consideration. In my own mind, and based upon discussions with others, it may be that UTB High is not necessarily the way to go. I appreciate the subject is a complex one.

[REDACTED] I wish to make two observations: (a) re our KH-4 area coverage requirement, we are now slightly below the mark and DIA would like to see the area coverage level sustained; (b) DIA has just completed an extensive study of image quality and we could make this available to COMIREX.

[REDACTED] With regard to the KH-4 schedule, Dr. McLucas should add a footnote in his EXCOM paper re COMIREX's agreement or disagreement. I want to prepare a document on what the NRO intends to do---and you can agree or disagree.

[REDACTED] We are simply trying to get together all the facts. We don't have these yet on KH-4 Low with UTB. The question is what are the area coverage implications? We have asked NPIC to work on the quality question.

[REDACTED] O.K. I'll take an action item.

[REDACTED] Previous minutes reflect our request to NRO to compute the coverage of UTB Low.

[REDACTED] The NRO was asked to provide this information, and it has not yet been provided. At the same time, I am aware there has been no request to USIB from EXCOM regarding the KH-4 stretchout and its implications. Nonetheless, we must complete our views forthwith if they are to have any impact upon EXCOM decisions.

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HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

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[REDACTED] It seems to me there are three basic issues:

- (a) the area coverage issue---and that's easy;
- (b) the image quality issue---DIA has some very revealing data on this;
- (c) the spacing and continuity of our coverage, for example, the impact upon our ability to detect new missile group starts.

[REDACTED] My concern is we've told them we're down to a 55% level of satisfaction.

[REDACTED] Any views or preliminary findings on this matter should be forwarded to the staff, and we shall circulate them to Members. It's important we work with data on which there is general agreement. I realize this may not be easy.

[REDACTED] Two weeks ago I stated EXCOM did not missed a sentence/---give USIB an opportunity to react to that missed a phrase/. [REDACTED] organization has got all the data COMIREX needs. Now---we read COMIREX requirements as the overriding consideration--- however---we must recognize there are mission-to-mission peculiarities.

[REDACTED] It's important our Principles understand all the data and its implications. The quality of photography is not irrelevant to the search problem.

4. [REDACTED] having just returned from the West Coast, was not fully aware of the joint [REDACTED] analysis which was done subsequent to the initial data provided by the SOC several weeks ago. This may account for his seeming reluctant to tell Inlow a more complete analysis was forthcoming. On 1 August 1969, I suggested to [REDACTED] he consider telephoning [REDACTED] and advising him such

