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21 August 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development Branch, DPE
THRU : Acting Chief, DPD
SUBJECT : Cut-off Date on CORONA Shots for 1959

1. In answer to your memorandum of 12 August, subject, same as above, the following information is provided:

2. To have sufficient sunlight for minimum acceptable photography, CORONA launches should not be attempted when areas of primary intelligence interest are not lighted by solar altitudes above 10 - 15° (source of this information: Messrs. [Redacted] of PIC).

3. Considering a solar angle of 15° or above in northern USSR, photography would be acceptable for intelligence purposes until 26 October below 60° north latitude. In computing a solar angle of 10° or above, photography would be available south of 60° N latitude up to 12 November.

4. By referring to the attached graphic aid, you will note that on 26 October you will have 15° solar angle for all desired target areas with exception of Molotovsk and Polyana Urals. (Highest priority target areas above 60° N latitude)

5. In considering the 10° solar angle you will note that we can plan CORONA shots up to 12 November and still have sufficient solar light to afford photography of approximately 87 percent of the highest priority targets.

6. In view of above, it is recommended that CORONA shots not be attempted after 12 November 1959.

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Acting Chief, Operations Br.
DPE-DD/P

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Dist.: [Redacted]

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