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MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DFD

27 JUL 1961

SUBJECT: Operational Requirements for C Prime Cameras

1. Because of the proven reliability of the C prime instrument and the operational flexibility it provides it appears that several C prime cameras should be maintained in the inventory at all times.
2. It is of paramount importance that these cameras be given immediate attention. This is because of the lengthy lead time required to produce hardware of this type, the limited number remaining in the inventory, and because the production capability is being curtailed.
3. Operationally this camera provides us with a greater capability for pioneer coverage of an area due to the lower sun angle limitation, which is presently determined to be seven degrees. This lower sun angle also provides the intelligence community with a more positive capability of photographing priority areas in the USSR during the winter months. In addition, it always provides greater selectivity, through the use of ascending and descending passes, after the cloud coverage of an area is examined. It is my belief that while this lense-film combination does not produce photography with as great a definition as other systems there are times when the sacrificing of definition for capability can be readily foreseen.
4. Until the problem of determining the correct sun angle for use with various lense-film combinations can be solved, there is an inherent limitation in the CORONA program. At present, the entire community is studying the problem and opinions vary greatly on the solution to this problem.

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

5. It is highly possible that the difficulties encountered in the follow on programs may be overcome before the present stock of C prime cameras is depleted. In addition, there may be film combinations which when used with C tripple prime cameras will give us the operational flexibility that is desired. However, when viewing the present conditions a situation exists which could become very serious in the future. A situation I thought should be forwarded for your consideration.

SIGNED

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Lt. Colonel USAF
Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD

cc:
DPD/C/DB

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