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2 October 1964

BRIEFING NOTE

**SUBJECT: Photographic Coverage Contemplated During the Next Six Months of Significant ChiCom Targets**

1. The most pressing ChiCom intelligence problem in the time period under consideration will concern the Chinese nuclear program. Most of our knowledge of Chinese progress in the nuclear field has been derived from satellite photography. Identified targets include the Lop Nor test site, a gaseous diffusion plant at Lanzhou, a small plutonium production reactor at Pao Tou, a probable weapons development and production facility at Koko Nor, and a possible reactor at Yumen. To evaluate the progress of the Chinese program it will be necessary to continue coverage of these installations by high resolution photography and to continue search with the J satellite system for additional nuclear facilities.
2. Periodic coverage will also be required to monitor ChiCom missile activity. The most important missile-associated targets are the Shuangchengtsu missile test range, its yet unknown downrange

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impact areas, and the Peiping missile research and development facility. Information is also required on other missile-associated installations, including the Cheng-hsin-Tien guided missile test center, the Taiyuan propellant plant, and a number of other missile-related industrial centers. As with the nuclear problem, the search for new facilities may be satisfied by the J system, but detailed knowledge of progress must be acquired from higher resolution systems.

3. We also need overhead photography for satisfactory assessment of the ChiCom military potential, especially the threat to Southeast Asia, Taiwan, and the Indian border. Our specific requirements for current and timely photographic coverage toward this end involve a wide variety of targets spread over the whole of China, particularly South China. They include airfields, naval bases, diverse types of military installations, defense-oriented industrial plants, supply depots, logistic networks, and air defense sites.

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4. Present plans call for use of satellites, the [REDACTED] and the RF-101 to collect the photography we need for assessment of the ChiCom AE missile and military problems. With respect to our planning for employment of satellites against Chinese nuclear and missile targets we have also had to consider the priority need to complete coverage of the Soviet Union this year as a means of locating the new single site sites. In our efforts to achieve both of these objectives USIB has requested that NRO be prepared to launch three extra J missions and two extra [REDACTED] missions during the next three months. One J per month and one [REDACTED] every 45 days are normally scheduled for launch. The extra missions will be used, however, only as needed, that need to be determined on a mission by mission basis after reviewing preceding missions. The [REDACTED] missions would be used as follow-up on targets requiring high resolution. If all of the extra launches are used, our schedule for the next six months will be as follows:

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- October - two Js and two [REDACTED]
- November - two Js and one [REDACTED]
- December - two Js and one [REDACTED]
- January - one J
- February - one J
- March - one J and possibly one [REDACTED]

5. Weather is a determining factor in planning for reconnaissance over China. In the summer months, South China is almost continuously cloud-covered. Weather should improve in the fall and with an augmented satellite program the coverage required will hopefully be achieved.

6. [REDACTED]

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7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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