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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

18 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL CARTER

SUBJECT: Comments on Colonel Rall's Draft of the  
MC&G Working Group Paper to COMIREX on  
Processing of KH-9 Materials

The concern expressed in this draft memorandum stems from two sources:

A. Current processing, especially that associated with producing dupe positives through the Niagara printer, is introducing distortions which are of major concern not only to the mapping community, but also the intelligence community. This situation becomes even more acute when ultra-thin base film is used.

B. The recent briefings by Captain Koch and Mr. Ed Green of E.K., to COMIREX on facilities and processing of HEXAGON film, stressed only physical plant required, but did not go into detail on processing techniques to be used. Apparently it was indicated that processing would be similar to that currently being used on KH-4 with no special precautions being taken to keep film distortion to an absolute minimum.

*KH-9*

A discussion of CORONA processing came up on the West Coast during the recent PIM meeting. E.K.'s position, as stated by Mr. Don Chessler, is that he has heard of no formal complaints with present processing and distortion in the thin-base film material and therefore, a 1% greater

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degradation in going to UTB would appear to be acceptable and consequently E.K. has no intention of changing any of their processing equipment and procedures. Representation from NPIC stated that they were unaware of the magnitude of distortion of UTB and based on previous E.K. data, had assumed it to be uniform <sup>in the</sup> to 2 micron region and not random in the 25 micron region as present data now indicates.

I have talked to Colonel Hoy about this and he will be working with E.K., NPIC and MC&G people to see what can be done to reduce current processing distortions and what controls should be placed on processing HEXAGON material. In summary, it would appear that data now being presented by E.K. with film distortions resulting from processing, are of a significant nature and are legitimate concern to both MC&G and Intelligence users.

I feel we should stick the needle to our friends at E.K. and get a jump on this problem before we get our face rubbed in it by the users.

  
WILLIAM E. WILLIAMSON  
LtColonel, U.S.A.

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