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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



Commo

28 DEC 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: Implementation of OPIC Agreements

- References:
- (a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Overseas Processing and Reporting - 26 February 1965. (Atch #1)
 - (b) Memorandum for the United States Intelligence Board, subject: Overseas Handling, Processing and Reporting on Selected Nationally Programmed Photographic Reconnaissance Missions (USIB-D-46.1/2) - 21 June 1967 (Atch #2);
Memorandum for USIB, same subject, (USIB-D-41.11/4) - 1 June 1965 (Atch #3)

1. In December of 1964, the DNRO directed the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee "to review and update policies and procedures for overseas handling, processing, and reporting of sensitive photographic reconnaissance missions."

2. In late February 1965, the Ad Hoc Committee reported the results of their review to the DNRO, with their recommendations. These recommendations were the following:

a. The previous 1957 CIA/USAF URPIC Operations Agreements would be cancelled.

b. Two Overseas Processing and Interpretation Centers (OPIC) would be established. The Asian Center would continue at the 67th Recon Tech Sqdn in Yokota. A new European OPIC should be manned and operated by the 7499th Support Group and the 497th Recon Tech Sqdn at Wiesbaden, Germany and designated OPIC-E.

c. The mission of the OPIC was defined as follows: "It shall be the mission of the OPIC's to process, reproduce and report on such reconnaissance missions as directed by the NRO with the advice of the USIB." The report was submitted to the

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DNRO on 26 February 1965 with the concurrence of DIA/USAF/CIA and NPIC. DNRO approved the report and forwarded it to the USIB. On 21 June 1967, USIB (by Memorandum USIB-D-46.1/2) approved the Statement of Policy included as Tab "A" of the Ad Hoc report. USIB further concurred in the designation of both Yokota and Wiesbaden as OPIC's.

3. In their report, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that responsibility for the establishment and operation of the OPIC's be the joint responsibility of the NRO, the COMOR, the DIA, NPIC and the military departments. The NRO was essentially responsible for certification of operational capability, provision of technical assistance and quality standards and basic guidance on National plans (as required). The COMOR for overall mission/policy guidance and specifically current listings of USIB (COMOR) reconnaissance requirements. DIA is to act as executive agent for NRO/COMOR/NPIC contacts with the OPIC, with NPIC providing the background data base on target objectives through DIA. The military services through the unified and specified commands are responsible for insuring that "adequate" facilities, personnel, equipment and supplies for processing (and exploitation) are provided the OPIC's in accordance with the standards established by the NRO.

4. These are the basic outlines of the Agreements which established the OPIC facilities in Europe and Asia in 1965. The Statement of Policy approved by the USIB on 21 June 1967, however, also further limited the responsibilities of an OPIC by the definition contained in its title as follows:

"Policy and Procedures for Overseas Handling,
Processing and Reporting on Selected Nationally
Programmed Photographic Reconnaissance Missions
(Excluding Satellite Reconnaissance)"

By these limiting words, the OPIC's were approved and so designated to support only selective National programs - and then only the aeronautical programs.

5. OPIC-A in Yokota was activated fully in 1967 in order to support Black Shield as a National aeronautical program. However, when the ORI was performed, it was found not operationally ready from the standpoint of training and equipment. Since the NRO is responsible for the "emergency procurement and shipment of photographic processing equipment and supplies", new

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processors were airlifted in on a "crash" basis and an Eastman support team assigned to insure quality control. OPIC-A is now processing on the basis of national standards for the SR-71 Giant Scale missions. The 67th had in being a data base computer capability, and in early 1968 the NRO also provided an approved secure data link between Yokota, SAC, DIA and the NPIC which allowed direct distribution of the SR-71 mission recorder data and, as required, intelligence data base update by DIA.

6. OPIC-E in Wiesbaden, while approved by the USIB in June of 1967, has not been activated. Clean room facilities were constructed for the 7499th Support Group, through the support of the DNRO, in late 1964. However, primarily because of Asian priorities, little more has been done about its activation. In the past year, in recognition of the continuing instability in Europe, the NRO Staff, after discussion with DIA did budget for some of the key (long lead) items for OPIC-E. These are: Fultron processors similar to those in use in OPIC-A at Yokota; supporting chem mix equipment and Niagra printers.

7. Wiesbaden is a designated OPIC but from our present knowledge of its status, it could not process national products in an approved manner. It is approximately in the same condition as was Yokota when Black Shield was assigned. To update Yokota on a crash basis was expensive. Therefore, in view of the present European political climate, it is believed timely to take the steps necessary to place it in an ORI condition in an economical manner. The OPIC Agreements stipulate the minimum (by type) of processing equipments required of an OPIC. The majority of these are on hand in the NER, or in the case of the fultron processors, in production. It would seem prudent to start the installation of this equipment now, and bring OPIC-E up to standard following which an ORI can be arranged. However, in addition to the processing capability, there is one other decision that must be reached - and that is with regard to the reporting capability stipulated in the Agreement. Yokota had on hand a computer which is essential in today's National reconnaissance operations. To the best of our knowledge, there are no plans for one to be installed in Wiesbaden. Exploitation is the responsibility of DIA; however, the NRO would be responsible for providing both secure communications and a data link as provided for Yokota. The costs schedules and means of providing this link

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is also essential for the transmission of the mission data from the SR-71 if it is deployed to Europe. 1/

8. In conclusion, it is requested that the DNRO approve the following actions to establish OPIC-E in Wiesbaden:

a. A survey should be made as soon as possible of the 7499th/497th facilities to determine their current status and actions required to install the equipment required for OPIC-E.

b. The NRO Staff be authorized to withdraw the required equipments from the NER and in coordination with the Air Staff, DIA and Hq USAFE, install the items of processing equipment required by TAB C of the OPIC report of 26 Feb 65. The majority of the equipments required are on hand or in production. Additional costs will be primarily installation and checkout costs.

c. DIA be requested to update the EUCOM billet structure to establish the necessary clearances for OPIC-E.

d. The NRO communications staff be authorized to establish the required data communications/data processing center (similar to the AFSPPF facility) as outlined in TAB A of this memorandum on a standby basis. First year costs (including one-time costs) are estimated at \$670,000 with annual costs of \$123,000 or less, as noted in the communications plan. This would be the primary new cost for the establishment of OPIC-E. Communications funding support for the NRP is provided through AFCS.

e. That upon completion of the actions outlined above, and the necessary training period, that the NRO Staff certify OPIC-E as a National processing facility as outlined in the 1965 Agreements.

3 Atch

F. W. Hartley, Jr.
FRANK W. HARTLEY, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Director, Program D

Approved _____
Disapproved _____

1/ While there are staff discussions as to the need of another SAC OL in Europe, we assume that processing for the SR-71 would be accomplished at the OPIC in the same manner and for the same reasons as the Kadena/Yokota arrangements - unless the OPIC Agreements were cancelled.

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