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July 17, 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Documents for Jason Committee

On July 1 Col Allen passed me the Harry Davis/Stevie note, attached, and asked that I call Dr. Flax and in a very positive way ascertain just what the status of all these understandings and misunderstandings was.

On July 2 I called Dr. Flax and before I was even able to broach the question, Dr. Flax asked me to apologize to Col Allen for the previous mix-up and indicated that he had had another call from Harry Davis and that it turned out that the ground rules had completely changed and the request for the documents was now an entirely different ball game, i. e., that there were no new clearances involved and that a thorough review of the question had resulted in the confirmation of the Jason Committee's need for the reports.

I passed this information to Col Allen on July 2 and he asked me to call Mr. Chapman. Col Allen suggested that I point out very clearly to Mr. Chapman that (1) Mr. Davis was not involved in NRO activities (2) Mr. Davis' peripheral involvement in the "white" Air Force had obviously caused the requirement for the study and related need for the reports (3) we in the NRO were not sponsoring this activity by the Jason Committee and (4) we would look to Mr. Chapman's judgement (based on perhaps a requirement that he might have) as to whether or not the Jason Committee really needed these documents.

On July 9, I received a call from [redacted] in Mr. Chapman's office. [redacted] indicated that he and Mr. Chapman had reviewed the matter and had decided that the Jason Committee needed the reports. I asked him to indicate to me the accredited facility to which they should be sent and the individual to whom they would be addressed. He stated

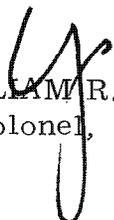
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that he would ask the security officer to provide that information. I suggested that he have his security officer call Capt Rose. I briefed Capt Rose on the matter and asked that he make whatever arrangements necessary with SAFSP to have the documents delivered.

On July 11 Capt Rose advised me that the documents would be delivered to Martin-Denver for the use of the Jason Committee on Monday, July 14. I called Mr. Chapman and passed this word to him.

The arrangement calls for the recipients to return the reports to SAFSP just as soon as they have completed their study.

  
WILLIAM R. YOST  
Lt Colonel, USAF

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RAB-8-35  
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June 23, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Jason Committee

At 0915 on June 23 Mr. Davis called me. He wanted to discuss the Jason Committee activities on image analysis and enhancement. He stated that [redacted] was sponsoring the activity and that the Committee had been approved to do work on material classified no higher than SECRET. Mr. Davis stated that Dr. McLucas wants the Jason Committee to do the study on image analysis and that he, Mr. Davis, wanted me to provide to [redacted] three volumes of the EK image analysis report [redacted]. I asked Mr. Davis whether Dr. McLucas had approved the Jason Committee receiving the documents and he stated that "Dr. McLucas wants them to do the study."

I discussed the Jason Committee study with Col Allen and prepared a memo per his instructions to Dr. McLucas. I requested his guidance.

  
JOHN R. MECEDA  
Captain, USAF

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CONTROL SYSTEM~~IS~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Jason Committee

Sometime ago I met with [ ] and McDonald to discuss a proposed study of image enhancement by the IDA/Jason Committee. We discussed the capability of the Jason Committee to study enhancement of exotic photography and NRO photographic products. At that time, there was no firm understanding of the scope of the Jason Committee's study.

We have received a request for documents containing very detailed information on the GAMBIT system. We believe this request for information reflects a scope of activity in excess of our understanding of the Jason Committee effort. In general, an in-depth study of image enhancement by this Committee would probably not add much to our previous activity in this area and is not critically important to our efforts. Rather, this study should be approached as a broad research topic. We understand that NPIC has provided briefings to the Committee along with tacit sponsorship of the study.

We recommend that the NRO not provide direct or tacit indorsement of the Jason Committee study of image enhancement. Further, we recommend that only photographic product documentation be provided to the Committee via NPIC. We do not believe that the BYEMAN operational characteristics of NRP projects should be provided to the Jason Committee.

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With your concurrence we will inform the sponsors of the study that BYEMAN details of NRP projects may not be used by the Jason Committee.

LEW ALLEN, JR.  
Colonel, USAF

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June 19, 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Jason Committee

On Tuesday, June 17, Col Worthman received a call from [redacted] is working with an IDA study group at Martin-Denver. This study group is working on image enhancement. He desires the three volumes of the GAMBIT extended life system analysis. Col Worthman set up a meeting for me with [redacted] at 1500 on June 18.

I met with [redacted] and [redacted] security officer for ORD on June 18 and discussed the documents. The Jason Committee of IDA is doing a study on image analysis and enhancement to be led by [redacted] of the University of California at San Diego. [redacted] stated that the effort has Mr. Helms' support and that Mr. Helms had said that any security access could be provided to any members of the Committee. The Jason Committee has already had an NPIC briefing, has obtained briefings from contractors, and is presently asking for information on camera systems.

I stated to [redacted] that to our knowledge the study was not sponsored by the NRO and we have been directed not to provide information to individuals or groups who do not directly assist the conduct of the NRP. At this point [redacted] stated that the discussion was beyond the scope of his activities and they asked [redacted] to join the meeting. I discussed the situation with [redacted] and he decided it was beyond the scope of his activities. Finally, I visited Mr. Chapman, who is the head of ORD for DDS&T. I iterated for Mr. Chapman my earlier statements to [redacted] I told Mr. Chapman that if the documents are required, Dr. McLucas is the only individual who can authorize the Jason Committee to have them. I informed Mr. Chapman that if their activities are sponsored by NPIC, NPIC has

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available KEYHOLE manuals on the KH-8 system which may solve their information problem. Mr. Chapman understood our position and has asked Carter to review the KH-8 manual to see if it satisfies the information requirements of the Jason Committee. If the KH-8 manual does not satisfy the requirements, a request will be forthcoming to Dr. McLucas.

In the context of peripheral information, I understand that DDS&T is sponsoring the Jason Committee by contract, although it appears that Chapman was not very thrilled with their studying image analysis. Further, I understand that [redacted] (I believe IDA) has talked to Dr. Foster and Dr. Flax on this subject.

When I returned to the Pentagon, [redacted] called to ask the control number on the KH-8 manual, which I provided to him.

  
JOHN R. MECEDA  
Captain, USAF

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1 July 69

Col Allen from H. Davis:

Dr. Flax called; some mix-up in releasing a document. I had suggested it be released. Flax advised Allen not to release it. He called me; he had made a mistake: it should be released. No extra clearances are involved. [redacted] is mad at Flax. Flax misunderstood. He now agrees with me that it should be released.

Davis/S

[redacted]

*Please see back with On F. Cox and Bob Chapman. - 694*

*no more. We may be trapped -  
L.G.*

1-11-69-53  
*Y. J.*

June 27, 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

On June 27, Col Allen discussed the Jason Committee image enhancement study with Dr. Flax. Col Allen related the substance of his conversation with Dr. Flax to me:

Dr. Flax did not believe that the Jason Committee needed the detailed specifications of our systems. He felt that the material in the KH manuals was sufficient for the purposes of the Jason Committee study.

Col Allen spoke to me later on and suggested that I call Mr. [redacted] CIA, and tell him of Col Allen's conversation with Dr. Flax and state that he did not indorse the study and felt that the KH ~~man~~ documents were sufficient. I suggested to Col Allen that I talk with Mr. Chapman rather than [redacted] since Mr. Chapman had been the individual in a position to make a decision on the problem. At 1530 I called Mr. Chapman and stated that Col Allen had had discussions with Dr. Flax and they both agreed that the detailed specifications did not appear to be necessary for the Jason study. I stated that the information contained in the KH manuals was considered sufficient. I further added that we did not indorse the Jason committee study. I stated that should information be required by the Jason Committee on system characteristics we would be glad to address specific requests. Mr. Chapman <sup>stated that</sup> could not take "umbrage" with that and that probably the only area where information would be required would be on the question of error budget. I stated that should the Jason Committee still require this documentation we would appreciate it if Mr. Duckett would express that request to Col Allen. I also told Mr. Chapman that if the Jason Committee needs specific information we might be able to provide briefings or possibly even a representative to consult with the Jason Committee. Mr. Chapman requested that I call [redacted] and state that the documents were not available and that if he had any further discussion on this, [redacted] was to talk to Mr. Chapman.

I attempted to call [redacted] but on this date he was on sick leave.

JRM

File  
RAR-B-35  
See

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

With SS-5 and  
Comptroller coordination  
I will authorize  
assistance to 10A  
as indicated in the  
George memo

Spencer

SS-5 Hoffman Hepman  
Comptroller

I agree with your observation  
that info requested is much too  
detailed. We should definitely  
not furnish data to the depth  
requested.