





18 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

3 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL ALLEN, SAFSP

SUBJECT: NPIC Investigation of Alternative Exploitation Concepts for the Film Readout GAMBIT System

REFERENCE: WHIG 0739, 9 June 1971, subj: Processing, Distribution and Feed-back Cycles for the Film Readout GAMBIT System

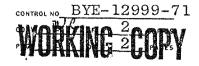
In response to the referenced message, NPIC has conducted a study of alternative exploitation concepts which might be used for the proposed Film Readout GAMBIT System. The results of this study are herewith forwarded as Attachment 1.

Although the study is considered a creditable effort and highly responsive to the NRO request, there are some shortcomings worthy of mention. For example, consideration of the effects of a satellite at 85 NM or in a crisis response repeating orbit has not been formally addressed although NPIC (E. Deitel) has indicated such operational modes will not greatly affect the results for any option. Secondly, Option 4 considers the use of a 777 relay for retransmission only from BOS and COOK. The use of KODI as well was previously presented as the relay option by SAFSP and would certainly affect the response times and resources associated with this option. Also, an option for direct readout to the Washington, D.C. area might have been useful in comparing the various readout/exploitation cycles.

It is requested that you review the attached documents and provide comments as to adequacy/shortcomings so that any necessary retasking might be effected.

As added information, the results of the subject study have been inputed to the COMIREX Ad Hoc Group which is also addressing the questions posed in the referenced message. A review of the work of this group (on which we have membership) indicates that the NRT data requirements (what/when/ where) are compatible with the NPIC study results thereby





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creating no major impacts to the "baseline" system proposed by SAFSP. We expect that the formalized COMIREX requirements will be available within the next month.

DAVID D. BRADBURN Colonel, USAF Director

Attachments 1. BYE-3304/71, and BYE-3306/71.





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