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~~GAMBIT ZAMAN~~

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17 SEP 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, COMIREX

SUBJECT : Request for Further Definition of
Collection Tasks for ZAMAN System

1. As you know, ZAMAN program System Definition Studies have been requested from four contractors. Our schedule calls for delivery of these studies by 15 December 1970, with an interim report early in November. In the period 15 December-1 February we will be reviewing these studies, deciding upon a system configuration and reducing to two the number of contractors who will pursue detailed system definition studies.

2. To date in the development of this program, we have worked with desired system capacity figures reflecting the USIB Requirements plus a list of targets which you suggested was a reasonable approximation of the target population and distribution against which the system would be targeted. We in turn constructed a mission model which was intended to provide adequate objectives for design studies and for some evaluation of the system definition studies. We foresee, however, that a fuller evaluation and the best possible guidance for the detailed studies will require a fuller, more specific description of the collection tasks.

3. The concepts underlying the operational requirements and the terms in which they are expressed are matters which need to be worked out cooperatively. Based on what we know of the kinds of problems to which the intelligence community might apply the ZAMAN system and the characteristics of the system as currently understood, we offer the following as a potentially useful approach to the description and definition of the requirements.

a. A number of different words and phrases have been used to describe the tasks to which the ZAMAN system would be applied, but there appears to be general agreement that the system will be working against standing requirements and, in addition, will be tasked with special, changing requirements.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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b. The standing requirements will be directed at the Warning/Indications problem, the monitoring of potential agreements with the USSR and any other problems which require regular surveillance of some targets.

c. This standing requirement might usefully be described as consisting of sets of targets with a collection task for each defined in terms of:

. The size of the sample which is to be covered with clear photography;

. The frequency with which the sample is to be covered (for example, daily);

. The maximum time interval allowed between successive clear photography of any member of the set (for example, thirty days);
and

. Resolution or other viewing constraints, if any.

4. In order that we be able to perform studies needed by 15 December, it would be desirable to have the improved requirements by 1 November.

5. It would also be very useful to have one or more representative special requirements so that we could develop information relative to potential performance against some requirements of that nature and to gain some feeling for the effects on the satisfaction of standing requirements if the special requirement were given first priority. Special requirements can be defined in the same terms as used for the standing requirements with the addition of some indication of the duration or lifetime of the special requirement.

6. Your reaction to the proposal that the ZAMAN system might replace GAMBIT is also solicited. This possibility has led to inclusion of requirements associated with a technical intelligence mission in the contractor guidance for one of the two configurations they are to consider. With the expectation that they

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will be useful at the time of the contractors' interim reports, it is requested that your comments on this matter be received by 1 November.

7. We should also keep in mind that the System Design Studies will contain suggested designs for the Operations and Processing Facilities which will have to be evaluated. We would benefit from your critical review of the portions of the work package given to the contractors which are devoted to the requirements for these facilities. We may be approaching you later for your reaction to aspects of these designs which are important for the user community interface with these facilities.

8. If you have any questions about this request, please contact me or Chief, Mission Analysis Branch in this Division.

LC Dirks

LESLIE C. DIRKS
Chief, Design & Analysis Division
Office of Special Projects

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