

DDI-1766-69

BYE-2975/69
IAS - 95/69
12 June 1969
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Initial Substantive Comments on the "Near-Real-Time" Study

In response to Col. White's memorandum of 9 June 1969 (BYE 1445/69/1), IAS reviewed the paper entitled "A Near-Real-Time Imagery Satellite System: Its Impact on Intelligence Production and Processes," and I delivered our initial substantive comments to Roland Inlow by green phone in the afternoon of 10 June. As per Col. White's request, our comments were in the form of specific suggestions for modification to the text in order to facilitate expeditious action. I did not try to force Roland to agree or disagree to our suggestions on-the-spot, but only sought to go on record and give him the benefit of our reactions. The time allowed for review and deliberation (by us or him) between the time of distributing the paper and the scheduled briefing of USIB on 11 June was too short to permit any formal concurrence as such.

The following recommended changes, and the reasons for them, were delivered to Roland after a preamble in which I indicated that IAS thought his study was informative and well-reasoned and that we had found no "horrors" which might make unwise its distribution outside the agency.

--Page 3, paragraph 2, line 3. For "the dominant" read "a vital." Reason: The paper does not in our view establish degree to which a near-real-time system may dominate the KH-8/KH-9 combination. The IAS thinks some of the things cited in justification this system (especially arms control on page IV-31 and routine activity analysis page IV-21) would actually be best performed by KH-9. In any case, we think the mix should comprise the several systems in proportions determined by what they do best and what the intelligence analysis organizations need to collect. We would not wish language like "the dominant" to prematurely affect the mix or to jeopardize the KH-9 just as it gets started.

--Page 5, subparagraph c, line 2. For "should be about 3 nm by 3 nm" read "should be at least 3 nm by 3 nm." Line 4. Add at end of subparagraph, "though a number of important targets are larger than this." Reason: IAS study of the 178 targets of greatest current concern to us shows only 53 percent are 3 nm by 3 nm or less. However, 84 percent are 5 nm by 5 nm or less. The COMIREX list used in the near-real-time study tends to be skewed somewhat from our interests because it contains a very large number of very small targets like missile sites.

GROUP 1
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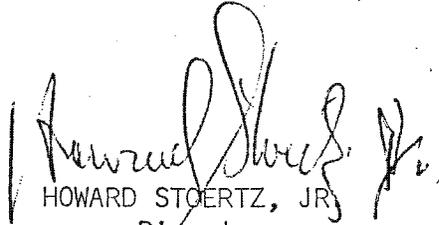
--Page II-2, paragraph 3, line 4. Delete "considerably."
Reason: potential of image enhancement techniques for electrical over panchromatic not established.

--Page IV-10, paragraph 3. Recommend delete. Reason: How could 3 by 3 nm be used to negate presence of moving ships in waterway, especially prior to public announcement? KH-9 might have had some chance, but probably not either.

--Page IV-28. Add to sentence, "but very little at that."

--Section V. Suggest that processing, exploitation, and intelligence production implications much less adequately treated in this paper than collection characteristics and possibilities. An urgent next order of business should be a much more thorough examination of this subject. Meanwhile such questions as, for example, whether single building best or whether all exploitation elements should be colocated, remain open questions in IAS' opinion. Perhaps the forthcoming management supplement will address this more specifically?

--Page V-10, bottom paragraph. Delete. Reason: This is not a change from the present way of handling film inputs in one building housing several exploitation organizations, and will therefore not "greatly improve" efficiency over present methods. Indeed, closer examination of the current intelligence and other needs to be met by the near-real-time system may show that centralization of exploitation functions in one building is not the most efficient course of action. This question should be looked into, but the paragraph seems to pre-judge it.


HOWARD STOERTZ, JR.
Director
Imagery Analysis Service

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