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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FRIEDMAN, ASD/ISA

SUBJECT: Additional Information on KH-6

Per your request of 15 January, a review has been made of the problems involved in re-establishing a KH-6 satellite reconnaissance capability - to be programmed primarily against Cuban targets - but also considering bonus coverage of South China targets. Aside from China target coverage data, this review largely confirms and substantiates information contained in a previous paper on this subject dated 14 January, [REDACTED] (6043-64).

In summary, re-establishing KH-6 will involve the following items:

1. Current Status: Program is now operationally dormant, however, some studies are being conducted under contract to determine feasibility of camera program improvement efforts.

2. Number Available: Five payloads now available - could be readied for launching within 6 months by ATLAS/AGENA - cost of readying (rehabilitation plus program improvement) all five payloads for launching would total [REDACTED] dollars. Additional KH-6 launchings could be programmed at cost of [REDACTED] each. Lead time for additional payloads - 12 months.

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3. Systems Capability: Swath width of 40 NM (at nominal altitude) with ground resolution averaging 5 ft at nadir. Program improvement studies, centering largely around improved thermal control, indicate resolutions of about 4 ft may be realized.

4. Cuban Coverage: One KH-6 mission will completely cover Cuba four times.

5. Other Area Coverage - China, for example: Dependent upon launch angle selected, the KH-6 could be programmed to cover China targets between 24° - 34° North and 24° - 34° South latitude. Approximately 130 of the 468 priority targets in China could be covered by the KH-6 launched at an inclination of 34° .

Attachment:
Map - China Targets

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