



Mr. Plummer has seen.

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

THE NRO STAFF

16 OCT 1974

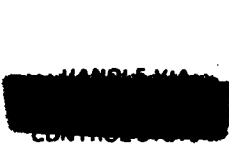
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Relocation of the Photo R&D Function of the Air Force  
Special Projects Production Facility (AFSPPF)

The closure of AFSPPF and the relocation of its tasks are proceeding on schedule. There remain two items to be closed out which will complete the decision-making process and allow final programming. First is the final decision on the location of the Photo R&D function and second is the reply to General Keegan's (AF/IN) letter of 15 July 1974 (Atch 1) which suggests that all of the functions of the AFSPPF be integrated at SAC in Omaha, Nebraska. General Kulpa addressed both of these items in his 25 July 1974 memo to you (Atch 2) which he indicated that the Evaluation function had received approval from all participants to be relocated at the NPIC and that commitments and planning had already been accomplished. In the same memo he provided you information as to the progress made in reaching an agreement for the Photo R&D, but that he felt it was too premature to make a decision until he and General Bradburn had an opportunity to fully analyze the problem.

In your memo to General Kulpa on 26 July 1974 (Atch 3), you agreed with the relocation of the Evaluation function to the NPIC and also indicated that you desired that both General Kulpa and General Bradburn include in their analysis the option of placing the Photo R&D function at Omaha.

Numerous discussions between the SAFSS/SP staffs have taken place along with discussions with OD&E people. A portion of the success and fulfillment of the tasks undertaken at AFSPPF has been in cooperation with the Evaluation function, utilizing their instrumentation and skilled technicians.



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Also the QC lab which provides all QC/QA functions for R&D is available. With the separation of functions, this type of support creates an atmosphere which requires more support in the form of duplicate equipment and the necessity to have additional manpower to provide the desired results. This type analysis was accomplished with the basic thought and goal to resolve the situation in a manner which is most beneficial to the NRP as well as being the most cost effective.

Both General Bradburn and General Kulpa agreed that the most advantageous placement would be in the Washington, D.C. area to be melded with the Program B Imagery Technology Division. This has the advantage of placing both the photo and exploitation R&D efforts together which best serves the NRP as well as utilizing common facilities and equipment.

The proviso remains that if a specific photo R&D task is best served by placing it with the program manager in Los Angeles, that this should be done. The overall direction will be from the NRO Configuration Change Board (CCB) which has three members representing SAF/SS, SAFSP and OD&E. In this manner the most cost effective and program satisfaction criteria can be applied to the specific task being undertaken.

The message on the right sets forth a common ground of understanding to create both a home and direction for the photo R&D function. I want to make clear that General Kulpa, General Bradburn and Mr. Les Dirks have all seen this message and that all three have agreed to its contents.

Request you release the message on the right as well as the letter to General Keegan informing him of the placement of both the Evaluation and Photo R&D functions of the AFSPPF.

[REDACTED]  
Colonel, USAF  
Director

- 3 Atch  
1. Gen Keegan Ltr  
2. Gen Kulpa Memo  
3. Mr. Plummer Memo

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