

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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~~IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY~~
WHEELER

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

June 28, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with the DIA on the Requirement for
the SI Camera

Admiral Lowrance, General McChristian and other members of the DIA met with me on June 18th to answer my questions on the requirement for the SI camera. After observing that the costs were going up at a rapid rate I stated the need for having a better understanding of the requirement.

I noted that if the requirement is firm we should go ahead. If it is not firm, we should review it and determine whether we should continue. We might even try to identify another course of action. The cost has risen from approximately [REDACTED]. Admiral Lowrance asked General McChristian to explain the Army requirement. He stated that the requirement came from USIB thru JCS. General Wheeler reaffirmed the requirement only yesterday. He stated without any doubt that we needed the 1 to 50,000 scale map. The brigade leader and the platoon leader can not use the 1 to 100,000 scale map because it is too gross to show the type of detail they need. They need the 1 to 50,000 scale map because of the details that can be easily drawn on the map. From this detail they can decide what battle tactics they should employ. In fact, General McChristian stated they need the 1 to 25,000 picto map in many instances.

When questioned where they get the material for the 1 to 25,000 maps, he stated they use the 1 to 50,000 maps as base material, but add detail from many sources. In other words they do not need the metric accuracy but do need greater detail.

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They do not plan to propose maps of the entire 420M square mile land area outside the Soviet Sino block. This is too much material to prepare and store. They would like to have a data base so that if maps are needed in any area of the world they could automatically produce them to the scale needed.

There are at least [redacted] man years employed in exploiting TK material. The TK material is their primary source material.

They made the significant point that the cost of making the maps for exploiting the material we furnish is much greater than collecting the material. In this case the increased cost of the stellar index camera is a small fraction of the total map producing cost. They claimed that making these maps with a 12" camera would cost [redacted] less than with the KH4 material. We acknowledged that it would be cheaper to make it from the 12" than from the 3".

Colonel Herndon stated that he did not understand our figure of [redacted] since he spoke to General Berg and General Berg said the cost had risen to [redacted]. We stated that there was some misunderstanding and that we would have to check this. They agreed that if the cost was now [redacted] another look at the requirement would be justified.

M/L

John L. McLucas

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