MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NRO Film Processing

Reference is made to your memorandum of 14 December, subject as above.

As requested, I will be prepared to brief the NRO Executive Committee on this matter within two weeks.

Subsequently, representatives of the NRO Staff will be prepared to discuss this subject with appropriate members of your staff in any degree of detail desired.

Signed

Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
MEMORANDUM FOR: Director  
National Reconnaissance Office  

SUBJECT: NRO Film Processing

1. The NRO now depends on the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York, and the Air Force Special Projects Processing Laboratory in Westover, Massachusetts, for processing of the film produced by most NRO programs. According to the memorandum of understanding regarding processing and reproduction of photography signed on 11 August 1962, the Eastman Kodak covert processing facility under CIA is to be utilized for processing all original negative materials, some film duplication, and R&D of new processing techniques for both laboratories. Westover is to be "utilized to produce duplicates for distribution to users."

2. In connection with the FY 1965 NRO budget review, it is necessary that this policy be reaffirmed or modified by joint agreement so that we can comment properly on your budgetary proposals. We have inquired several times about this area, but have received no clear response. This causes us some concern in view of your proposed annual report to the PFIAB which makes little distinction between the two facilities. We note further that an operational readiness inspection is to be held at AFSPPL in January, 1965, to demonstrate its capability "executing 'womb-to-tomb' processing of CORONA production at the earliest practicable time." Your several references to the "excessive" overtime at the Eastman Kodak facility is another indication that you may be proposing to recommend reconsiderations of the original distribution of responsibilities between EK and AFSPPL.
3. I therefore request that you brief the NRO Executive Committee at your earliest opportunity, and subsequently appropriate members of my staff, on your plans and proposals for utilization of the two film processing facilities.

John A. McCone
Director

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense