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**NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

STAFF

19 April 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN HUGHES, DIA-DC

SUBJECT: Overseas Processing and Interpretation Centers (OPIC's)

The original concept of the OPIC's dates back almost a decade and from a period in time when this country was lacking in processing support. Since that time both the National and DoD elements have vastly improved. Today we continue to maintain OPIC-A and E, but have never really tasked them recently to provide a service which they were originally intended to perform.

Since the inception of OPIC-E, only one National mission has been flown in that area of the world and the mission was processed back here in the CONUS. The high volume of processing accomplished at OPIC-A was a direct result of our involvement in SEA and could have been accomplished (and in reality was) by the 548th RTG.

Our National involvement with the OPIC's recently has been one of disappointment and concern. [redacted] had numerous difficulties in the processing phase encountered at OPIC-E. OPIC-A has experienced difficulties with [redacted]

There is no intention to place blame on either OPIC. It is a simple fact that to process imagery at NRO standards requires almost continuous exercise with the various films and chemistries associated with the effort. A constant update in both techniques and equipment is necessary and the recent decision to exercise the OPIC's semi-annually can only attempt to point out our problems.

BY [redacted]  
A GENERAL [redacted] TION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EX-  
EMPTION CATEGORY (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)  
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON  
[redacted]  
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IDEALIST

WARNING NOTICE - SENSITIVE  
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND  
METHODS INVOLVED

FPP-E2

ATTN: [redacted]

[REDACTED]

It is felt that the Air Force can adequately manage and support the effort which is presently justified as an OPIC. During times of crisis or special missions, the NRO would continue to lend support in the way of logistics and contractor expertise if required.

As the executive for the NRO in matters dealing with the OPIC's, request you investigate the continuing need of this film processing concept and make appropriate recommendations by 1 June 1973 for their termination or postulate a revised concept with adequate justification.

[REDACTED]

JOHN E. KULPA, JR.  
Colonel, USAF  
Director

IDEALIST

[REDACTED]