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

THE NRO STAFF

28 April 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Project TACTFUL

Background

The Navy was advised on 1 February 1971 (Attachment 1) that the NRO was conducting evaluations of NRO systems other than POPPY for purposes of ocean surveillance. Admiral Harlfinger suggested that a good evaluation of STRAWMAN and TRIPOS/SOUSEA would be to utilize these systems during a major Soviet naval exercise (Attachment 2). In the interim, the U. S. Navy conducted a major fleet exercise off the coast of San Diego; the NRO/SOC utilized this opportunity to conduct Project TANGIBLE as an initial evaluation of the capabilities of STRAWMAN and TRIPOS/SOUSEA to provide timely data concerning shipborne emitters.

Project TACTFUL

The code name for NRO participation in the next major Soviet naval exercise is TACTFUL. SORS approval has been obtained to use STRAWMAN, TRIPOS/SOUSEA and POPPY from 23 April to 31 August 1971 should the Soviet exercise materialize. The purpose of the NRO participation is to provide processed STRAWMAN, TRIPOS/SOUSEA and POPPY data to the Navy as expeditiously as possible. Specific tip-off, collection, delivery and evaluation procedures are currently being established by the SOC in coordination with the Navy and the National Security Agency.

An evaluation of the results of Project TANGIBLE and TACTFUL is expected to impact on the NRP in two areas. First, these projects should determine whether it is advisable to use STRAWMAN and TRIPOS/SOUSEA on a routine basis to provide ocean surveillance information. Secondly, an evaluation of the project results by SS-7 and the Director, Program C should assist in the development of the future NRP response to the ocean surveillance requirement.

*Some comments
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not had
exercise of
from
others*

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The Navy has a very strong interest in Project TACTFUL and has made a formal request to you soliciting your assistance (Attachment 3). The Director, NSA, has notified the Navy of NSA's readiness to participate.

The success of Project TACTFUL will require continuing close coordination between the Navy and the DNRO Staff for tip-off and evaluation. It is recommended that you approve the proposed response to the Navy's request on the facing page.

David D. Bradburn
DAVID D. BRADBURN
Colonel, USAF
Director

4 Attachments

1. DNRO memo to CNO, 1 Feb 71
(BYE 12590-71)
2. BYE-66482-70, dtd 5 Jan 71
3. CNC memo dtd 20 Apr 71
4. Gayler memo 5 May 71

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