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26 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. FREDERICK AYER, JR.
Special Assistant for Intelligence, USAF

SUBJECT : 461-L

REFERENCE : Memorandum for the Director of Central Intelligence, dated 22 April 1958, same subject.

1. The Director, General Cabell and I have given careful consideration to your memorandum since the briefing you gave the Director on 461-L on 21 April. Although he was much interested in the 461-L system, I do not know what formal position the Director will take on this project. It is his feeling, however, that the request for permission to operate this summer cannot possibly be pushed through to a final decision before you leave on your trip. Although there may be some informal discussions of the matter in your absence, I doubt if the Director will arrange a formal briefing for the Secretary of State until after your return and I believe he is not sure that he, rather than Ambassador Cumming, should be the person to arrange such a meeting.

2. For whatever it is worth, I will say that I think you would be unrealistic if you were overly optimistic about obtaining such permission. From our contacts with other parts of the Government in connection with my own business I am impressed with the chilliness of the temperature and I suspect you are going to feel some of the same chill. I say this so that you will have it in mind in your conversations overseas.

SA/DP/DCI:RMB:djm

1-Addressee (*Hand carried*)

#2 - DCI w/Cy 1 TS-164978 (ref) *for EA*

#3 - DDCI w/cy 2 TS-164978 (ref) *for EA*

#4 - SA/PD/DCI w/o ref

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

NRO review(s) completed.

TS-164978
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