MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6858

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1500 hours, 10 May 1968.

2. Mission Data:
   a. Mission Number: BX6858
   b. Date Flown: 6 May 1968
   c. Area of Operation: North Korea
   d. Mission Success: Successful
   e. Pilot's Name: Layton
   f. Aircraft Number: 127
   g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
   h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0100Z  
      Actual: 0100Z
   i. Landing Time - Planned: 0428Z  
      Actual: 0430Z
   j. Time Enroute - Planned: 3+28  
      Actual: 3+30
   k. Departure Base: Kadena AB
   l. Landing Base: Kadena AB
   m. Equipment:

      (1) Primary: TYPE I, BW, PIN PEG, BLUE DOG II, MAD
           MOTH, SYSTEM VI.

      (2) Spare: Same as primary.
3. Operations:
   a. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory
   b. Plans: Route (Actual vs. Planned): Satisfactory
      (1) Total INS Nav Time: 4+06 Hours
      (2) INS Terminal Error: 9.7 Nautical Miles
      (3) INS Spec. Error: 8.9 Nautical Miles
   c. Tactics (Planned vs. Actual): As briefed.

4. Weather:
   a. Forecast vs. Actual: Worse than briefed.
   b. Observed Cloud Condition:
      (1) Pilot reported CAT I conditions on both passes with heavy haze over entire area.
      (2) Photography: reported 20% cloud on first pass and 30% on second pass. Overall degradation was 50% due to clouds and haze.
   c. Comments: Weather was worse than briefed due to haze condition which may have been intensified by thin cirrus clouds.

5. Materiel:
   a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory
      (1) Comments: Left windshield glazed inflight. Windshield has been replaced. During first B.I.T., RUSTRAK, SYSTEM VI, and BIRDWATCHER indicated a failure of the MAD MOBTH system. Subsequent tests were normal. System is being investigated.
b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory

(1) Comments: INS had excessive terminal error. System has been replaced.

(2) Resolution: Poor on photography effected by atmospherics. Estimated 18 to 20 inch resolution on non-effected photos.

(3) Camera Operation: Normal. SC & DM indicated camera in caged position during second pass over denied. Indication was false and wiring between camera and SC & DM recorder is being investigated to determine signal source.

6. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) 66 of 77 programmed targets covered.
(2) 3 SSM targets covered.
(3) 68 of 125 COMIREX targets covered.
(4) 15 SAM sites, 3 occupied, 1 unoccupied, 11 ID only.
(5) 30 bonus targets.
(6) Comments: The mission obtained poor to fair quality photography of the southern two-fifths of North Korea. Scattered clouds and haze affected approximately 50% of the photography.

c. Significant Findings: None

d. EWS Activation: None
e. Take Movement:

   (1) Photography: Satisfactory

   (2) ELINT: Satisfactory

   (3) Comments: The original negative was delayed at Andrews AFB in the movement to [redacted] due to maintenance on the Headquarters C-118. The film was rescheduled on a commercial flight and delivered to [redacted] 8 May 1968 at 2250Z.

7. Communications:

   a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory

   b. BIRDWATCHER: Satisfactory

   c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory

8. Significant Actions Taken:

   Confidence flight accomplished on aircraft 127, 15 May 1968, to verify INS, camera caging and B.I.T. systems operation. All systems operated normally except SC&DM tape - continued to reflect a false camera caged condition. Camera and SC&DM systems are being investigated to determine signal source.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

   b. Establish procedure whereby DTFC may request a repeat EWS system B.I.T. if BIRDWATCHER indications are not normal. (OXC Operations/Communications).
OXC/O/OSA

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#3 - D/M/OSA
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#5 - OXC/O/OSA
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#11 - Chrono

Chief, OXCART Division, OSA

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