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COR-0311  
Copy 4 of 4.

9 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)  
25X9A5

SUBJECT : Briefing of ██████████ SAC Headquarters  
25X9A5

1. On 6 January 1959 I briefed ██████████ as follows:  
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a. CHALICE. I showed ██████████ the approved mission from ██████████ which was intended to photograph suspected ICBM launch sites along the Polyarny Urals railway. He was most interested and asked whether or not we might be able to go back and get it at some later date. I advised him that if the series of missions now planned are successful, it is planned to return to ██████████ around the first of May to complete this mission and others for which presidential approval would be sought.

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b. ██████████ I went over ██████████ participation in our project, bringing ██████████ up to date on location and status of crews as well as approvals for a series of missions ██████████ Again he was most interested in those missions which were searching ICBM launch sites and was pleased that approval in principle had been secured. ██████████ was told that an approach was being made to ██████████ for permission to use ██████████ and that if approval was granted we would be in place approximately 1 February. Further, that if the six missions went off successfully, we would of course request additional approvals from ██████████

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c. CORONA. In addition to briefing ██████████ I also briefed ██████████ individually and covered the background and development of the CORONA project with emphasis on the fact that BMD would do the shooting and handling, but that CIA developed the camera package and has made arrangements for high quality processing equipment. The biomedical aspects of the shots were discussed as well as the USAF air-snatch recovery technique. I stated that camera development would continue although the first two camera packages have been completed. A schedule of firings was given as approximately one per month starting about 9 January with the first camera package being launched in April or early May.

This document contains information referring to Project CORONA

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All three individuals being briefed had "swallowed" the CORONA cover story and were most concerned with regard to delays and setbacks announced for the [redacted]. All were relieved to know that a capability would soon exist and that continued development would go on with regard to the camera package since the resolution required to pinpoint ICBM sites would be greatly enhanced by longer focal lengths.

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[redacted] considered that it was extremely important to have an IR warning capability in [redacted]. His two major requirements consist of the tactical warning system afforded by IR plus precise knowledge of the Russian ICBM locations.

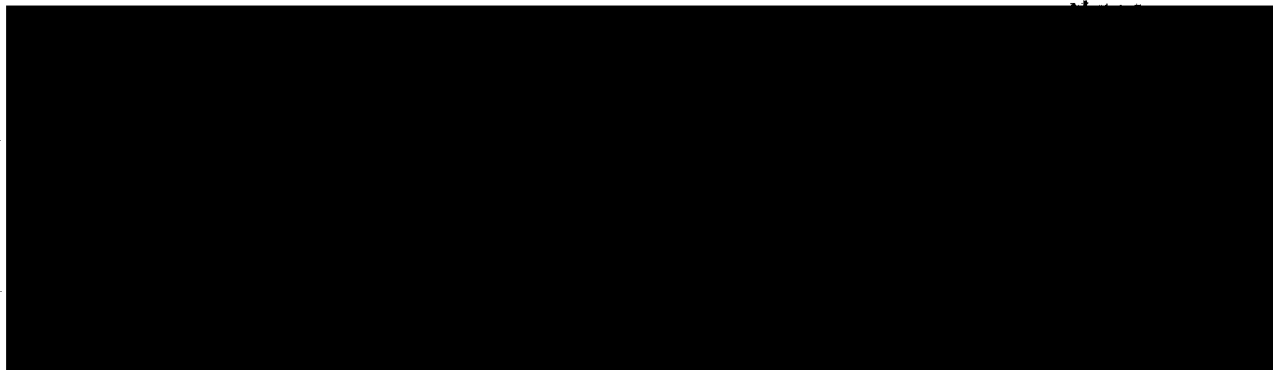
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d. [redacted] advised that he was most concerned over the lack of a successor aircraft to the U-2 and he did not feel that the [redacted] program would fill the gap between the time of U-2 obsolescence and highly reliable reconnaissance from missiles. He asked whether or not I knew of any planning in this regard. I advised him that a highly qualified group of people had reviewed several proposals for successor vehicles and that a couple of these appeared to have sufficient promise to warrant further study; however, I said I was not aware of any decision with regard to proposals other than continued feasibility studies.

Later in the day I saw a letter prepared to [redacted] signature to [redacted]. This letter expressed [redacted] grave concern over the lack of a successor aircraft. I made no comment to the officer who prepared the letter; however, at a later time this officer advised me that [redacted] had not signed the letter and that his failure to sign the letter must be involved with my discussion with [redacted]. I made no comment to either confirm or deny this officer's statement.

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person in SAC Headquarters

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Colonel, USAF  
DPD-DD/P

Cy 1 - DD/P

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Cy 2 - DPD-DD/P

Cy 3 -

Cy 4 - COR Chron/hh