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SAPC-26370 ✓
Copy / of 9

11 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Distribution of AQUATONE Engineering Film Report

REFERENCE : SAPC-25096, dated 7 Apr 58

1. [redacted] and I have read the referenced memorandum, authored by [redacted] which deals with the question of release for showing in various quarters of the Project Engineering Film Report, prepared by [redacted] with which you are familiar.

2. Walt has made what are some quite pertinent observations regarding ways of controlling who sees the film, through the instrumentality of clearance requirements equal to those in effect for Phase III. He has done this, however, without knowledge of Agency policy regarding the release of material of this sort to persons outside CIA. [redacted] and I feel that before you authorize any arrangement which will make this film available to persons outside the Project or the Agency, you may wish to consider some of the implications:

a. While the film does not mention sponsorship, it does contain, and in fact centers around, the development of a photo-reconnaissance capability in the U-2 - a fact which we have gone to some lengths to conceal except from service sources. Certainly, our cover story goes to considerable lengths in the opposite direction - admitting only a 6 inch tracking camera capability.

b. [redacted] is prominently mentioned by name in the film, and of course a considerable portion of the action includes shots of [redacted] and environs. If we are to return at some date to [redacted] under cover of other than development of a photo-reconnaissance capability, this aspect of the film leaves something to be desired in my mind.

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c. Mindful of what you have said about the apprehension existing in high political circles about AQUATONE, its mission and past performances, we do not feel that to embark on a program of this sort outside the Agency is a particularly defensible proposition, despite the security controls set forth in Walt's paper. We do not see any present requirement to "sell" AQUATONE, either in industry or the services, and this film is basically designed to do just that.

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3. It is true that there may be occasions when the showing of this film may not only be indicated but highly desirable, but the two cases cited by [redacted] in paragraph 1, (a) and (b) of his memorandum, seem to us requirements arising out of curiosity rather than necessity.

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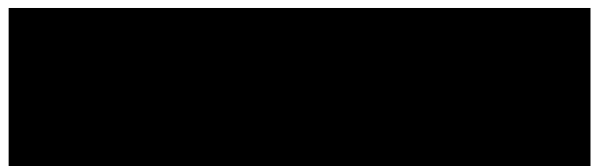
4. However, if you do feel that it is timely to respond to requests such as the two examples cited, we would propose not only the adoption of the controls proposed by [redacted] but retention by you of approval to conduct showings, with the decisions to be made on an individual case basis. It would be appropriate to suggest also that as many as possible of the showings be conducted under Project aegis preferably on our own real estate, so that we may be sure who has actually come into possession of this information.

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5. It is our further suggestion that the copies of the film now in the hands of [redacted] be blanketed in under similar restrictions on who may view them. I believe that informal enjoinders against showing them indiscriminately have been given the persons concerned, but it would be helpful if these were formalized by [redacted] and his staff.

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Director of Administration
PS/DCI

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[redacted] sb (11 Apr 58)

Distribution:

- 1 & 2 - Addressee
- 3 - Dep Proj Dir
- 4 - Ops
- 5 - Mat
- 6 - SO
- 7 - [redacted]
- 8 - [redacted]
- 9 - RI

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