

MEMORANDUM TO: Director of Operations, Project AQUATONE

SUBJECT : Proposed Operations

1. Ref our discussion 1300-1330, 23 April, the following information is submitted as to contemplated operations from [] as opposed to []

A. Operations from [] would present no problems in Logistics as all equipment necessary for this operation is in place including fuel, film, engines, etc. To insure availability of maintenance crews and technical representatives, [] should be immediately alerted in order to insure above personnel are not scheduled for R&R on the flight scheduled to depart [] 26 April.

B. Operation from [] would present many Logistics problems, none of which are insurmountable providing time is available to alert proper authorities. With this in mind I might sight a few of the problems that would face [] USAFE, USAF, and Project Headquarters:

(1) A minimum of 2½ days is required for a C-124 to move from a base location in Central Europe to [] This does not include time required for maintenance, necessary time for aircraft and the time required to obtain diplomatic clearances for aircraft and crew members. I estimate the very minimum time required to accomplish a move would be five days after receipt of notification by Headquarters USAFE of this requirement providing the requirement was presented on a priority basis and Headquarters USAFE was authorized to stand-down on other mission requirements.

C. While not directly in the field of Logistics the time factor for required [] of our intent to operate prior to 1 May as well as the time required to make necessary billeting arrangements at [] and sufficient notification [] in order for them to make necessary moves to insure facilities are available for Project Aquatone might be such as to prevent the Project meeting the required deadline time.

D. [] has received an indefinite stand-down on [] operations and though once organized to fulfill this requirement there is every reason to believe that it would require at least a couple of days to reorganize his personnel and repack his equipment in order to make this move.

E. An examination of the type [] required for this operation should be made in conjunction with his present maintenance schedule to insure that should a RAINBOW [] be desired it would be available along with a back-up []

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2. While the Materiel Section does not desire to throw "sour grapes" on this operation we feel responsible to point out the necessary political negotiations, administrative arrangements and pipeline time required to insure the success of this contemplated operation. We feel a decision should be made no later than 0800, 24 April in order to give any chance of success for this operation on either 30 April or 1 May.

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