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26 April 1966

NAVY DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: "Blue Eagle" Briefing

1. I visited Mr. Harry Patch, Director of Special Projects, at the U.S. Navy Communications Systems Headquarters on 21 April for a briefing on their Air Transportable Communications Unit-Two, ATCU-2, otherwise known as "Blue Eagle". The ATCU-2 is essentially a highly transportable and flexible HF radio relay consisting of standard off-the-shelf communications equipment installed in a Navy transport aircraft, R6D. The radio relay can be operated while the aircraft is airborne or stationary. All communications equipment is interconnected by patching or thru the use of quick disconnect plugs so that, if desired, the entire radio relay may be easily removed from the plane and assembled in temporary shelters within a matter of hours. A further discussion of the unit's capabilities and characteristics will be omitted here since a detailed description is contained in the attachment.

2. The ATCU-2 was assembled on a crash basis more than five years ago and was used to prove and demonstrate a new concept of establishing emergency communications. In view of the experience gained in building the first ATCU-2 and the progress of communications equipment design over the past five years, Mr. Patch feels that an overall improvement in performance and size of a new ATCU-2 could easily be realized. If additional information regarding the project "Blue Eagle" is desired, Mr. Patch indicated he would be willing to present a briefing to interested members of the Agency.

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Attachment:

Report - WESTPAC Operation of Air Transportable Communication Unit Two (ATCU Two)

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