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30 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Possible Request for Airborne Overflight of  
Peru/Chile Border

1. During the last several days several inquiries have been made as to feasibility, cost, method of requesting, etc. of a U-2/SR-71 overflight of the Peru/Chile border area.

2. These inquiries began about the middle of last week and came originally from [redacted] DDO/WH. I informed him that the 40 Committee would probably have to approve such a flight and that he should check through the NIO's office to see if they felt a valid need for such a flight.

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3. On Thursday, 24 October, we received a call from [redacted] Asst. NIO for Latin America asking basically the same questions i.e. feasibility, cost, etc. [redacted] appeared to see the complexity of the problem and the assumption was that the idea had been put aside.

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4. On Tuesday, 29 October, [redacted] again called to inquire on the cost per sortie of a U-2 flight over the border area. He was informed that since OSA had gone out of the U-2 business, we had no "in-house" expertise on aircraft flight costing and that the Air Force, as the prime operator would have to give figures on cost. He said that he was reluctant to go to the Air Force for the information and would check around headquarters.

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5. Later the same day, [redacted] DDO/CCPC, called and discussed the same problems with emphasis on procedures to seek overflight permission. He was informed that the correct procedure was through the 40 Committee.

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6. Up to this time, we have had no direct inquiry from any DDI component on a possible overflight of the Peru/Chile border area.

[redacted]

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