

~~SECRET~~

SECURITY MMW 9/19

[Handwritten initials]

17 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

25X1A

1. REF: [redacted] 381

2. At the beginning of Project HTAUTOMAT considerable planning was conducted to work out the details for incorporating each frame of AQUATONE photography into the Minicard System. This is a photographic-electronic system designed to provide the most expeditious means of retrieving myriads of data, of a substantive nature, from each frame.

3. The manufacturer of this equipment, in particular the cameras, required sample formats in order to determine camera capabilities and limitations. Several unique problems were immediately visualized: (1) thin base film would require different techniques in re-photographing and in handling (2) the 9 X 18 format meant that two overlapping exposures (9 X 9) would be required in order to record each frame of photography (3) titling would be required on both 9 X 9 halves (4) film densities would have to be considered, etc.

4. In mid 1956, Minicard problems were encountered which could only be met by having actual sample materials on hand in order to provide the guidance to the manufacturer. [redacted] who is the OCR Minicard Project Coordinator, and [redacted] Project Headquarters' Contract Officer, requested sample materials from HTA, which could be made available to [redacted] who was cleared for the Project. This request was cleared with the TSO/CIA and SO/Project Headquarters, and it was agreed that two rolls of untitled USCM training film could be made available to EK for this purpose. It was pointed out that this material was TOP SECRET and therefore, would have to remain in [redacted] custody and only those experts and technicians who had a real "need-to-know" should have access to this film.

25X1A
25X1A
25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

5. Two rolls of film (B-104, Cam 7 and B-105, Cam 7 -- USCM) were taken [redacted] by Messrs. [redacted] on 10 September 1956 and turned over to [redacted] on that date after receipts were obtained. [redacted] was advised of the security implications; and to the best of our knowledge has observed strict

25X1A
25X1A
25X1A

HANDLE VIA TALENT

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

control of this film. This was recently demonstrated when he refused to permit [redacted] access to the film.

25X1A

6. In November 1956, it was realized that no provision had been made for recording 70mm film on Minicards. This could pose innumerable technical problems. Tracker TF 57 (B-104) was therefore sent to Project Headquarters to the TCO ([redacted]) for onward transmission to [redacted] the package number C-1000 was signed for by [redacted] on 7 December 1956.

25X1A
25X1A
25X1A

7. Recently arrangements were made with the TSO/CIA and the SO/Project Headquarters to send a group of HTA personnel [redacted] to test the cameras with "live" AQUATONE product which had been classified as to geographic pinpoint and substantive content based upon Community exploitation. The acid test was the simultaneous input of encoded data from punched tape and the graphic data from the associated frames of photography. In this instance the strictest security measures were undertaken. The film ([redacted]) was handled only by HTA and properly cleared personnel. At night these materials were stored in the vault, [redacted] shop, at the Processing Site.

25X1A

25X1D

25X1A

8. At the time these tests were undertaken with "live" AQUATONE materials, certain problems were encountered with the camera where it became necessary to show the engineers sample materials to correct lens calibrations, etc. [redacted] borrowed the non-titled materials from [redacted] for this purpose. (NOTE: TS does not appear.)

25X1A
25X1A

9. In conversation with [redacted] HTA/OCR, who returned from the Processing Site on 7 September 1957, it was learned that the query in reference cable was generated by the following action. [redacted] who is project cleared, left the reels in question with [redacted] for safekeeping. When asked to get them back the security problems arose. Since [redacted] and others associated with the Processing Site have definite responsibilities regarding AQUATONE materials, they are absolutely correct in raising the question in reference cable. It should be brought to their attention that [redacted] is authorized to have these three reels of film as was previously arranged for with Project Headquarters. Furthermore, it should be noted that [redacted] has already released the film.

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

[redacted]
25X1A

SECRET