

[Redacted]

(General)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (S)

6801 17 12
212 201-21

12 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Informal Summary Project **ACENTONE**

REFERENCE : Tab A:

[Redacted]

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Tab B: "ACENTONE Authorized and On-Duty Strength" (as of 1 June 1957); SAFC-1640, Copy 1 of 3.

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Tab C: [Redacted]

Tab D: "Statistical Review of **REACTOR** Activities"; Copy 1.

Tab E: [Redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2002

For your information, there follows an abbreviated digest of Project **ACENTONE** developments, including significant dates, major accomplishments and evaluations of results. Tabs A through E contain more complete information than presented in this memorandum, since it is difficult to forecast to what extent the Director may be questioned on these topics, or to what extent he may wish to make a full reply to a given query:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Project **ACENTONE** is a sophisticated intelligence collection activity, employing specially designed photographic and **ELINT** reconnaissance aircraft with unusual capabilities. It is further identified as a clandestine operation under the joint sponsorship of Central Intelligence Agency and the United States Air Force, with the following basic objectives:

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TABLE:

- November, 1954 DCI and Secretary of the Air Force meet to discuss Dr. Bin Lun's plan for comprehensive photo-reconnaissance coverage of the Soviet Union.
- 9 December, 1954 Preliminary negotiations begin with Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, leading to construction of CL-440, later designated as the U-2 by USAF
- July, 1955 First flight of prototype aircraft at [redacted] from support air base facility erected in 8 weeks under guidance of CIA, with cooperation [redacted]
- 7 May, 1956 Deployment of first AGOSTONE detachment to [redacted] as Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional (First), of the Air Weather Service, USAF.
- 15 June, 1956 Redeployment of first AGOSTONE detachment to [redacted] Soviet Bloc!
- 26 June, 1956 First operational overflight of USSR; 7 more follow through 10 July, 1956, when USSR files formal protest.
- 23 August, 1956 Deployment of second detachment to [redacted] (2), AWE, USAF.
- 29 September, 1956 Redeployment of first detachment to [redacted]
- [redacted]
- 17 April, 1957 Deployment of third detachment to [redacted] (3), AWE, USAF.
- 3 June, 1957 Deployment of staging elements, plus 1 aircraft, to Eielson AFB, Alaska, for coverage priority targets, Kamchatka, USSR. Now awaiting favorable weather.



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3.

TIMETABLE (Continued)

10 June, 1957

Movement of training and testing program from
[Redacted] to Edwards AFB, California,
as Detachment one, WRAF (4), AHS, USAF.

FUNDS OBLIGATED AND EXPENDED, FISCAL YEARS 1955 THROUGH 1958: (See Tab "A")

[Redacted]

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CONTRACTS LET AND IDENTITIES OF MAJOR SUPPLIERS:

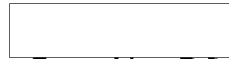
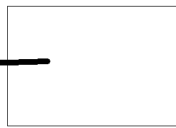
In order to contract for the procurement of 20 U-2 aircraft and allied weapons systems for ACHIEVER, and to provide follow-on procurement of 29 U-2 aircraft and components for the compatible program of the Air Force, the Project has thus far let a total of 50 contracts with industrial suppliers, with a dollar value to date of [Redacted]. Major suppliers are:

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- Lockheed Aircraft Corporation Basic airframe and AFQAF engine, plus meteorological configuration.
- Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corp. Power plant
- Westinghouse Corporation RADAR
- Perkin-Elmer Corporation Optics
- Kyon Manufacturing Corporation ... Cameras
- Reno-Woodbridge Corporation ELINT equipment
- Firewal Company Pressure suits
- Haird Atomic Associates, Inc. Sensitive
- General Precision Laboratories RADAR
- Kodak Eastman Company Special film and development

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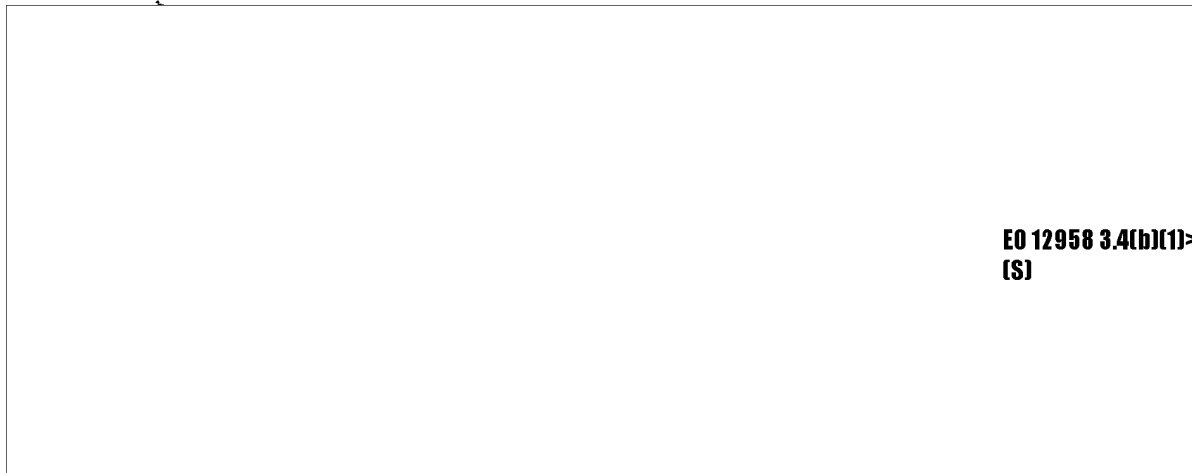
PERSONNEL: (See Tab "B")

To man Project AQUADONE, a Table of Organization authorizing a total of [] people has been drawn up. Today there are on duty only [] people, of which number [] are in Washington and [] in the domestic or foreign field.

Of the [] total on-duty strength, [] are USAF personnel, [] are CIA staff employees, [] are contract agent types, and the balance of [] are contractor-furnished personnel. Since the first AQUADONE detachment completes its 18 month tour of overseas duty in November, 1957, and additionally through experience gained in actual field operations, the total on-duty strength figure of [] is expected to decline by the end of the calendar year by an approximate figure of []

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CLEARANCES: (See Tab "C")



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AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE CAPABILITIES:

Maximum Usable Aircraft Ceiling:	[]
Cruising Speed at Ceiling:	445 knots
Maximum Endurance:	12 hours, 35 minutes
Maximum Range, Overload Condition:	4800 miles
Dry Thrust of Engine:	11,800 lbs.
Designed Gross Weight:	17,000 lbs.
Wing Span:	80.2 feet
Length Fuselage:	48.5 feet

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SUMMARY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE: (See Tab "D")

Number of Operational Missions Flown:	<input type="checkbox"/>	EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (S)
Soviet Bloc Missions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Middle East Missions	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Linear Feet of Film Coverage: 500,000 plus

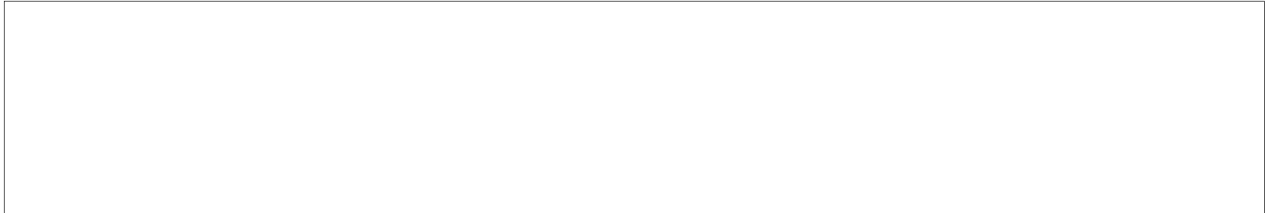
Film Coverage of USSR Obtained:
With 3-inch camera on 70mm film: 251,300 square nautical miles, or 2.7% of USSR land area

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (S) With 2 1/2-inch camera on 9018 film: 141,500 square nautical miles, or 2.4% of USSR land area

From the above missions, a total of photo intelligence reports have been derived, with results conservatively judged from a technical point-of-view to triple the quality of the best aerial photography of World War II. Special notice should be taken of the fact that AGENTURE operations have provided the first aerial coverage of known nuclear energy installations in the USSR, plus previously unknown but now suspect installations of the same type. Also of vital importance are coverage of known airfields, plus previously unknown in the USSR. In addition, similar coverage has been obtained of known and previously unknown airfields in Soviet Satellite countries. A total of detailed studies on the Soviet Bloc have been issued in response to high-priority requirements of the intelligence community.

SUMMARY OF AGENTURE ELINT RESULTS TO DATE: (See Tab "E")

Additional knowledge of Soviet electronics, particularly in air defense, derived from the penetration missions of the USSR have already contributed tremendously to our knowledge of the Soviet's order of battle. In addition, new electronic systems have been discovered and their capabilities evaluated. This new information has led to a complete review of the electronic aspects of the Soviet defense systems.



RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Coordination

Distribution:
1 - Addressee
2 - Mr. Bissell

