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COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

COMOR-M-372
8 July 1966

*Approved 1966
15 July COMOR-M-374
para 5, para 6, para 25.
page 12*

The following is an index of the minutes of the 8 July COMOR meeting:

- Paragraph 1-4 Assessment of Special GMAIC Mission, 1033J (b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(6)
- Paragraph 5-7 Report on In-Flight Processing
- Paragraph 8 Report from NPIC - Mission Highlights
- Paragraph 9 Approval of Minutes
- Paragraph 10 Approval of [Redacted] Requirement (COMOR-D-69/32, paragraphs 48-52)
- Paragraph 11-12 Need for Revision of SIGINT Satellite Reconnaissance (COMOR-D-69/32)
- Paragraph 13 Community Need for Color Photography from [Redacted]
- Paragraph 14-15 Report from Photo Working Group
- Paragraph 16-17 Operational Briefing Satellite
- Paragraph 18 Operational Briefing Aircraft
- Paragraph 19 Operational Briefing Drone
- Paragraph 20 Decontrol of TALENT Photography of the Middle East (COMOR-D-22/81)
- Paragraph 21 Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy Requirements
- Paragraph 22 Mapping & Charting Amendment to Requirements for KH-9 Photographic Reconnaissance System (COMOR-D-13/63)

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
06-Jul-2011

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COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

COMOR-M-372 (Continued)
8 July 1966

- Paragraph 23 Need to Review Data Base on China
 [Redacted]
- Paragraph 24 Discussion of Actions Needed in Conjunction with
 Long Range Paper
- Paragraph 25 DIA Comments on Status of South China/
 North Vietnam Coverage

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COMOR-M-372



Minutes of Meeting
Central Intelligence Agency, Langley
1000-1315, 8 July 1966



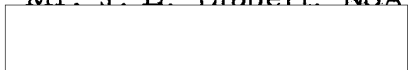
PRESIDING

William A. Tidwell
Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. D. H. Ainsworth, DIA
Deputy Chairman
Mr. L. A. Moyer, Jr., State
Capt. P. H. Faircloth, DIA
Mr. J. C. St. Cyr, OACSI

Capt. B. L. Garbow, ONI
Lt. Col. R. L. DeRose, AFNIN
Mr. J. E. Libbert, NSA



CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Lt. Col. J. T. Connelly, NSA
Capt. NRO*
Col. H. C. Howard, NRO
Lt. Col. W. C. Barger, NPIC



Mr. A. J. Steele, CIA*



Mr. C. E. Duckett, CIA*
Mr. H. Channing, Executive Secretary
Mr. E. E. Donelson, O/Chairman, COMOR
Mr. H. E. Rhoads, Chairman, Photo Working Group
Lt. Col. T. J. Shepherd, Chairman, SIGINT Working Group*

*Present for part of the meeting.

Assessment of Special GMAIC Mission, 1033J



1. Mr. Duckett introduced discussion of the special GMAIC mission by noting some of the drawbacks. He commented that the



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quality of the photography proved to be marginal for GMAIC purposes. While it was possible to assess activity, as shown later, such important information as the classes of vehicles at a site could not be determined. Mr. Duckett added that although GMAIC thought that it had done extensive advance planning to assist NPIC in its readout, it was found in retrospect that the planning had not been adequate and a much severer task had been imposed on NPIC than had originally been envisaged. The Chairman, GMAIC concluded his introductory remarks by commenting that the various working groups of GMAIC are now embarked on an exploitation in depth. To complete this job to the satisfaction of GMAIC will probably take approximately three months. This time could be shortened if it were necessary to complete the assessment on a forced draft basis.

2. Mr. Duckett next referred to the plus side and reported that the potential of such a mission, when properly planned and assessed, is tremendous. As illustrated below, higher resolution would generally enhance the results. Pertinent comments are:

a. Missions of this nature have a potential to identify every launch facility at a test site and if flown with a higher resolution camera should permit the analyst to associate each facility with specific missiles.

b. Repetitive coverage is extremely helpful in uncovering new sites.



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3. The Chairman, GMAIC showed some examples of the photography obtained by 1033J and explained highlights as follows:

[Redacted]

(1) We may have precise identification of the pad used for COSMOS launches.

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4. In reply to a question from the Chairman, COMOR, Mr. Duckett speculated that GMAIC may wish to have another similar mission using the KH-7. He added that he will need at least a month and much more study of 1033J before reaching a decision [redacted]

[redacted] In reply to a question from [redacted] Mr. Duckett confirmed that 1033J has been extremely expensive in terms of PI time. While experience may improve techniques on later missions, he does not hold out any great hope for drastic improvements in this regard.

Report on Inflight Processing

5. [redacted] showed members a summary of NRO plans pursuant to the inflight processing question and demonstrated a number of studied alternatives. The alternative methods of handling and the hours required for processed and preliminarily analyzed film to reach Washington from Hawaii ranged from:

A present example showing 80 hours consumed;

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A streamlined version of the present procedure showing a reduction to 40 hours;

The situation presently envisaged with inflight processing and PI facilities onboard consuming 12 hours.

[] then described various methods used in the systems analysis as well as standards to which [] would have to adhere. An important standard from the standpoint of COMOR is that there will be absolutely no compromise of film quality and actually in some respects there will be improvements.

6. [] noted that the system studies and the construction of all critical operational breadboard exercises are due to be completed by March 1967. The specific recommendation as to use should be made by July 1967. Studies conducted so far point toward:

a. Assurance of total feasibility that an airborne processing and exploitation center, permanently installed in a C135B or C141 aircraft, can provide a fully processed, collated, and a partially analysed original negative and duplicate positive in Washington at the end of the nine-hour non-stop flight from Hawaii.

b. A capability from commencement of flash reporting with ~~three to five hours~~ after takeoff from recovery (Hawaii). *within 3 to 5 hours*

c. A resultant goal for a QRC processing capability anywhere in the world.

7. In reply to some questions from the Chairman, [] emphasized that the work being done is providing quite significant fringe benefits. Viscous processing is among these, and this along with other improvements will directly result in some streamlining and product improvement over [] present procedures. Mr. Tidwell then thanked [] for his briefing, while commenting that COMOR need study the whole problem further and that such study must include other ideas that NRO has toward solving the crisis management problems.

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[redacted]
Report from NPIC--Mission Highlights

8. Colonel Barger briefed COMOR on recent photographic highlights. He commented that an early evaluation of 1034J indicated that much of the photography was below CORONA standard.

Approval of Minutes [redacted]

9. COMOR-M-371 was approved with the following changes:

a. Page 9, paragraph 20, in line 8, change "suggested that" to "reviewed the," delete "be," change "to" at end of line to "of"; and in line 9 at end of sentence after "NPIC" add "initially."

b. Page 9, paragraph 21, in line 4 after "that" add "if there is" and after "information" add "it."

Approval of [redacted] Requirement [redacted]

10. The Chairman, SIGINT Working Group submitted for COMOR consideration an amendment to Part III, Section C: COMINT requirements, paragraphs 48-52, COMOR-D-69/32. Colonel Shepherd advised members that this represents an amendment to the current [redacted] requirement. He noted that it achieves the following:

a. More clearly defines the desired radio frequency coverage by reducing that coverage from [redacted]

b. Re-defines location accuracies which will permit more efficient use of the information acquired.

COMOR approved the revised requirement /the revised [redacted] requirement is being sent to holders of COMOR-D-69/32/.

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CORONA, [redacted] COMOR-M-372
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Need for Revision of SIGINT Satellite Requirements
(COMOR-D-69/32) [redacted]

11. Following a brief discussion of the proposed revision to the [redacted] requirement as it now appears in COMOR-D-69/32 (paragraph 10 above), Mr. Libbert observed that a complete review of 69/32 would be a lengthy job. He noted, however, that a redefinition of the EOB requirement (COMOR-D-69/50), is due and should be made on a priority basis and incorporated in COMOR-D-69/32. Mr. Libbert feels that Colonel Hall joins him in this sentiment. Colonel Shepherd observed that by now COMOR-D-69/32 is a worn-out document which needs a complete review. Piecemeal corrections and suggestions have tended to confuse rather than edify the collector. Colonel Howard endorsed Colonel Shepherd's sentiments and stated that NRO would welcome a new SIGINT satellite requirements paper.

12. After cautioning the SIGINT Working Group that recommendations of the CETF could of themselves result in considerable revision and redefinition of COMOR-D-69/32, the Chairman acquiesced in [redacted] suggestion that further discussion of the need for revision be postponed until the COMOR meeting on 15 July.

Community Need for Color Photography from [redacted] [redacted]

13. The Chairman defined the problem before COMOR as to whether members wish the 12 color duplicate positives to be disseminated automatically or whether three should be delivered immediately to NPIC and others would be ordered depending on the NPIC evaluation of the take. DIA elected not to wait for the evaluation and requested simultaneous dissemination with the black and white film on the basis of one for DIA and one for SAC. Colonel DeRose then expressed his preference for the same procedure to be followed in transmittal of one to the training school at Offutt and one for FTD. Mr. St. Cyr called after the meeting to say that the Army would like immediate dissemination of one color duplicate positive to SPAD and one to MID.

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Report from Photo Working Group

14. Mr. Rhoads reported PWG activities as follows:

a. (1) Cuba

The Cuba target file was updated based on six GOLDEN TREE missions flown during June. As a result of this review, 4 targets were added and 6 targets were inactivated. The file now contains 172 targets.

(2) The highest priority list for Cuba, consisting of objectives that are maintained in the satellite reconnaissance file, was reviewed and no changes were made. The file contains a total of 23 targets.

(3) A table showing cumulative coverage of Cuba obtained by GOLDEN TREE missions is attached as Tab A.

b. South China/North Vietnam

(1) A draft report of photographic reconnaissance of South China/North Vietnam and the Sino-Indian border area during 28 June-4 July 1966 was prepared and approved for transmittal to the Board.

(2) The South China and North Vietnam priorities list was reviewed. No changes were made to the priorities list which contains 177 targets.

c. Update Camera Priorities for [redacted]
Adjustments were made in camera priorities for [redacted] based on current intelligence. Inasmuch as the last portion of this mission will utilize color film, some additional adjustments in camera priorities could be necessary if a change in expected mission duration occurs.

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15. In reply to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Rhoads assured Mr. Tidwell that PWG and NRO had been working closely to bring priorities up to date and coordinate the use of color film.

Operational Briefing-Satellite

[Redacted]

16. Colonel Howard submitted a summary of SIGINT satellite operations for the period 27 June to 3 July (Tab B) and reported satellite launches and scheduling as follows:

[Redacted]

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1034 - Launched 21 June 66/2130Z. Standard CORONA (80° 10th day sync). First bucket recovered 26 June 66/2350Z. Second bucket recovered 1 July 66/2352Z.

1035 - R-9 July 66. Launch September.

1036 -R-9 12 July (THORAD) - Launch date -2 August.

ELINT

[Redacted]

(Sub-satellite launched from

17. In reviewing the foregoing schedule, Colonel Howard explained that [Redacted] had been dropped [Redacted] because the package had not checked out satisfactorily. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[redacted] decision need be made as to whether flying the experiment might be incompatible with flying [redacted]

Operational Briefing-Aircraft

18. [redacted] reported that the [redacted] are still grounded. Estimates of earliest operational availability are late July. System XVII tests were completed on 30 June.

Operational Briefing-Drone

19. Captain Faircloth reported BLUE SPRINGS activities for the period 1-7 July as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission No.</u>	<u>Target/Area</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1 July 66	5155 (high)	Haiphong, Hanoi, Phuc Yen and Son Tay	Drone did not return; cause undetermined
2 July 66	5155 (high) 5520 (low)	same as above Hanoi/Phu Lang RR, Hanoi Area, and Son Tay	CNX WX Successful MARS Recvy.
3 July 66	None Scheduled		Unfavorable WX
4 July 66	5520 (low)	same as above	CNX WX
5 July 66	None Scheduled		Unfavorable WX
6 July 66	5157 (high)	Viet-Tri POL, Hanoi/Lao Cai RR, Hanoi & Haiphong Areas	Successful MARS Recvy
7 July 66	None Scheduled		Unfavorable WX
8 July 66	5158 (high)	Hanoi Area & Hanoi Lao Cai RR	Probably shot down

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Decontrol of TALENT Photography of the Middle East

20. COMOR reviewed the SDWG proposal that certain photography of the Middle East obtained by U-2 overflight in the period 1956 to 1960 be designated SANDBOX missions and decontrolled. The SDWG proposal was approved and it was agreed that it would be forwarded to the United States Intelligence Board for noting [redacted]

Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy Requirements [redacted]

21. COMOR reviewed the requirements as forwarded by the Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy Working Group [redacted]. Minor changes were reviewed and agreed to by members, and the Chairman reported that he hoped the paper could be scheduled for the USIB meeting on 14 July so that it may be considered at the same time as the [redacted]. The revised paper, as approved by COMOR, was sent to the Board as COMOR-D-13/65.

Mapping and Charting Amendment to Requirements for KH-9
Photographic Reconnaissance System
(COMOR-D-13/63) [redacted]

22. COMOR approved an amendment to paragraph 1g as submitted by DIA and agreed that it be forwarded to the USIB Secretariat.

Need to Review Data Base on China
(COMOR-D-25/204) [redacted]

23. The Chairman referred to the 25 February 1966 meeting of the United States Intelligence Board and noted that it had approved the recommendation of an ad hoc group that "in six months' time COMOR, with the assistance of appropriate representatives of the interested agencies, review the status and adequacy of the data base on China"; [redacted]. Mr. Tidwell advised members [redacted] would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for further discussion.

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Discussion of Actions Needed in Conjunction with Long Range Paper

24. The Chairman advised members that he had recently been reminded that COMOR has a further obligation to report on the need for high resolution photography. Mr. Tidwell observed that in its recent efforts to meet problems associated with the long range paper on a piecemeal basis, some similar obligations may have been bypassed. The Chairman requested [Redacted] to expedite their work on the long range paper with particular emphasis on such topics not yet covered as meaning of and need for higher resolution, electronic data link, the use of radar, etc.

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[Redacted Signature]

Executive Secretary
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

ADDENDUM:

[Redacted]

Attachments:

... Tabs A and B

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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COMOR-M-372

Tab A


8 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, COMOR

SUBJECT: Status Report on Cumulative Area Coverage
of Cuba

The following tabulation presents the status of GOLDEN TREE
coverage of Cuba, current as of Mission 8105, 6 July 1966:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Missions</u>	<u>Percent Coverage</u>
14 May - 6 July	12	100
18 May - 6 July	11	99
20 May - 6 July	10	99
24 May - 6 July	9	98
5 June - 6 July	8	98
10 June - 6 July	7	97
11 June - 6 July	6	96
14 June - 6 July	5	96
17 June - 6 July	4	89
23 June - 6 July	3	71
1 July - 6 July	2	48
6 July	1	40


Chairman
COMOR Photo Working Group

Group I
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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[Redacted]

TAB B
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[Redacted]

SIGINT SATELLITE OPERATIONS

SUMMARY - PERIOD 27 June 66 thru 3 July 66

Mission # and Launch	Name	Purpose	Payload Status	No. of Revs Tasked	Special Operation	Remarks
[Redacted]	POPPY	General Search	Nominal	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	POPPY	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	14	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

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TAB B
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SIGINT SATELLITE OPERATIONS

SUMMARY - PERIOD 27 June 66 ~~tex~~ thru 3 July 66 (cont.)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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