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4-9892-

9 December 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE



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VIA : DD/P

SUBJECT : Balloons, Load Carrying Vehicles

1. During the past few years joint sponsored projects have extended the scope of balloon technology. Many developments including launching techniques, new balloon designs and unified gondolas containing many adaptations and inventions of sensing elements, automatic releases, cameras and the like as well as reliable radio communication and command systems have evolved.

2. Balloons may be provided or employed for a wide variety of purposes. The employment may range from small propaganda or leaflet carriers to balloons in excess of 150 ft. in diameter capable of transporting loads exceeding 300 lbs. to altitudes of more than 100,000 feet. The small, uninstrumented propaganda carriers used range in size from 20 cu. ft. to 200 cu. ft. and are capable of carrying from .2 lbs. to 10 lbs. for distances up to 400 miles. Instrumented propaganda balloons may be used that are capable of carrying 110 lbs. for a distance of 1500 miles.

3. Several sizes of personnel balloons are available for carrying one or two people plus equipment or gross loads up to 900 lbs. These balloons have been used successfully for infiltrations, and test flights have covered 1200 miles in 21 hours. With proper meteorological information, it is possible to program a course by changing altitude. High altitude balloons have satisfactorily photographed the earth's surface from 90,000 feet.

4. Balloons as load carrying vehicles are the simplest and most economical vehicles available for carrying heavy loads on flights of long duration.

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5. It now appears practical to use balloons for overflights when authorized. Such balloons equipped with automatic cameras could readily be flown at 70,000 to 100,000 feet with virtually no possibility of detection.

LUIS deFLOREZ
Research Chairman

Distribution:

Addressee - Orig. & 1
DD/P - 1
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3			
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FROM		INITIALS	DATE
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2			
3			

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Remarks: *Note this memo. from Adm. de Florez. I believe TSS should pull together Agency ideas on balloons and*

over -

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ements therefor, then
consult with Air Force
re a Government-wide
requirement.

DD/I has an interest
as well as DD/P but
TSS would seem logical
one to pull together.

CPC

To TSS - Chief -

With reference to the above
note of D/DCI - it is my
understanding that TSS was
already acting in the capacity
indicated. If I am wrong, pls
let me know.

78W