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~~181~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

19 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: November Forecast of NRP Satellite and Aircraft Overflight Activities

On the facing page is the monthly memorandum to the 40 Committee of the satellite and aircraft overflight activities forecast for November 1973, and the highlights of activities that occurred over the past 30 days, that has been prepared for your signature. In addition to the IDEALIST/TACKLE and OLYMPIC FIRE missions that are routinely requested, we have included information to the 40 Committee on originally WSAG approved IDEALIST FORWARD PASS and GIANT REACH programs for covering the Middle East. Neither of the programs were requested for November, by either OSA (FORWARD PASS) or the JRC (GIANT REACH), but are in fact presently on alert to photograph the Middle East. OSA has concurred in our including the FORWARD PASS information to the monthly forecast, JRC does not concur.

The following is a resume of the aircraft missions requested in attachments 1 and 2, plus the possible Middle East missions.

IDEALIST/TACKLE (CIA U-2R) Photo/SIGINT and SIGINT) China

Four peripheral Photo/SIGINT and four SIGINT (LONG SHAFT) missions are requested for November, to be flown under the 5 August 1971 guideline to remain 25 nm offshore of the PRC and to avoid overflights of PRC held islands. Plans are still in effect to fly the remaining SCOPE SHIELD mission into the Gulf of Tonkin utilizing the H camera to cover North Vietnam coastal facilities. There was one IDEALIST/TACKLE mission flown during the period 15 September through 14 October. Two other scheduled missions were cancelled because of weather. Although not of concern to the November forecast, the IDEALIST/TACKLE missions will be on a "stand-down" 23 through 30 October, the period the Secretary of State is expected to visit the PRC.

IDEALIST (b)(1)1.5c

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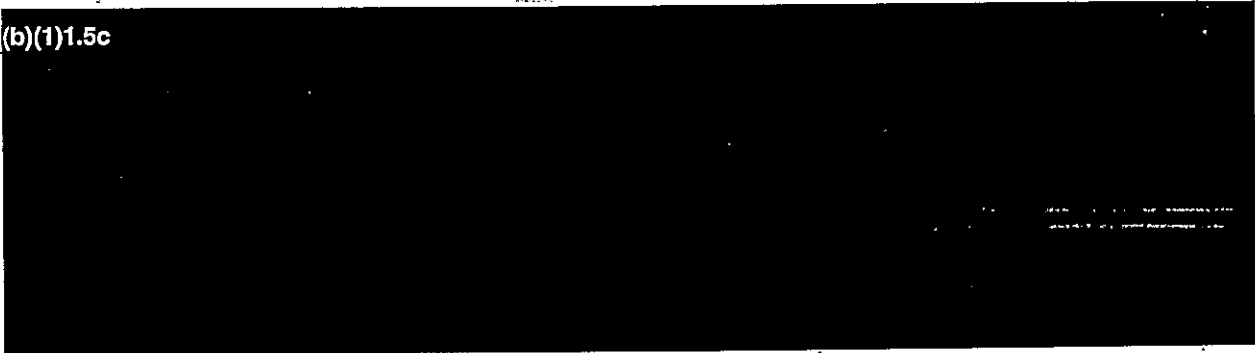
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OLYMPIC FIRE (SAC U-2R Photo) Cuba

Four overflights are requested for November. One/two overflights depending upon the actual weather conditions will be used to satisfy valid USIB intelligence requirements. The remaining sorties are for use against quick-reaction/extraordinary requirements which may occur during the month. Two missions were flown during the period 13 September to 12 October. The missions were flown on 19 September and 12 October. The missions were tracked by the Cubans, but no hostile intent was noted. The September mission confirmed the presence of a Soviet F class submarine and a KANIN class destroyer in Mariel Harbor; and a 40-foot diameter parabolic antenna at the Taposte Comsat ground station, 10 miles southeast of Havana, which will provide additional communication links between Cuba and the USSR. The mission aborted early because of radar flight following problems at the Guantanamo Naval Station. The October mission revealed that 12 drive-through revetments and nine artillery revetments have been constructed near the Guantanamo base since the 5 August OLYMPIC FIRE mission. As of 16 October the USIB 90-day requirement for 90% of Cuba to be covered showed 96.9% of the area covered. By 1 December, if no missions are flown during November, the 90-day requirement will stand at 73.5%.

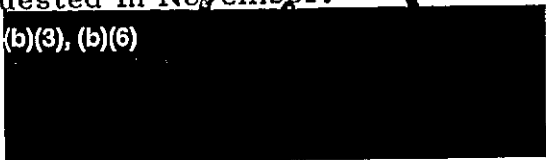
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GIANT REACH (SAC SR-71) Middle East

A GIANT REACH aircraft is at present on a 24-hour alert basis at Griffiss AFB, New York. Depending on the Arab/Israeli situation, missions to the crisis area may be requested in November.

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Lt Colonel, USAF
Assistant Deputy Director
for Satellite Operations

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