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6.2(d)

CONFIDENTIAL

12 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Research and Development

SUBJECT: Transmittal of DDO/SED Memo

REFERENCE: SED Memo dated 7 May 1976, Subject: SE Comments on TACANA

Attached herewith is a copy of the referenced memo, which I am forwarding to you. I will follow-up this memo with a formal request for an ORD response to the points outlined in the referenced memo after discussions with Mr. Don Reiser.

[redacted]
Chairman, TACANA/TCT

attachment: h/w

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7 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, TACANA TCT

FROM : [redacted]
SE/COPS

SUBJECT : SE Comments on TACANA

REFERENCE : ORD-1102-76 Paper on TACANA Program, 5 May 1976

1. After reading Reference and attending a TACANA meeting on 6 May, I offer the following comments and SE's position on the program. This is a collection system being developed by the DD/S&T for possible deployment by the DO against a priority target validated by OWI and OSI. SE Division continues to be willing to try to deploy this system against an internal Moscow-located target, provided:

a. The collection system is shown to be workable, i.e., can operate according to a script agreed to by the TCT. In short, birds trained against a target, moved clandestinely at least 2500 miles to target area, acclimated covertly, and deployed against target with return to a base.

b. A priority intelligence target in the Moscow area is validated by the DD/S&T and judged worth cost and risk involved.

2. Judging from remarks at the 6 May meeting, TACANA cannot be deployed during CY1976. It appears that two fundamental questions still need answers before any serious effort is made to run even a full, simulated exercise:

a. Full understanding of acclimation process: how long and can this be done covertly under simulated Moscow conditions? We apparently know the birds can adjust to new environs, but this has been done under non-clandestine conditions and we still lack full understanding of the process.

b. Can they be trained to search and find a particular target? What is their retention ability for this? What is impact of location change on this?

3. Given the current status of bird training there seems to be no reason to bring them to the Washington area this year. That step was

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planned only if they were ready to perform a full-scale dummy operation, and indeed I think this area should remain as a final test location. Whether the program should be continued must be a DD/S&T decision. Only its offices can truly evaluate the collection system/cost against similar developmental efforts, and certify/validate the targets. In any event the program should not involve bringing the birds to Washington until they are fully ready to meet an operational test script /per paragraph 1. a. above/.

cc: C/SE
NIO/SA
C/SE/I/USSR

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