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Not Sent

OTS/CB Memo #75-123
7 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: OTS/COP

SUBJECT : D&E Role in Avian Training Program

REFERENCE : "Avian Demonstrations" Memo dated 27 August 1975 - ORD-3603-75

1. In the event that the reference demonstrations illicit a favorable response from the DDO operating divisions and some practical targets can be identified, OTS/CB will in all probability be responsible for the final development of the system. At this time, no FY-76 funds are budgeted for work in this area, although it was mentioned as a possible budgetary item in OTS/CB's planning paper if the ORD program was successful and if operational requirements justified OTS participation.

2. The avain training program involves the use of trained birds to perform some act, e.g. photography, sensor package emplacement, of operational significance in locations inaccessible to human agents. The present ORD Program is based on a requirement to photograph a specific portion of a Soviet SA-5 radar antenna. (This is a highly ambitious undertaking in that the bird would be required to fly a round-trip of about 30 miles i.e. 15 miles to the target, perch in a location which would permit collection of significant photographs and return to the launch point.) To my knowlege, the distance traveled by a trained bird to date is about 16 miles round-trip.

3. I have visited both of the ORD contractor's [redacted] during the past year for a first hand briefing on the state of the avian development. From these briefings and past experience, there is no doubt, in my opinion, that birds can be trained to perform emplacement, retrieval, and photography missions under a variety of scenarios. A survey

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of possible DDO operational use of trained birds was made about two years ago. Although some interest was expressed, the only requirement surfaced at that time was the above mentioned photography. In my opinion some worthwhile targets, which are more reasonably within the birds capabilities and easier to lay on operationally, need to be identified. Also in my opinion, OTS should be ready to take advantage of ORD developments and work toward one or more specific targets, if they are identified.

4. [redacted] OTS/CB is attending the referenced demonstration for DED. The main purpose of his participation is for technical briefing since he would be a prospective project engineer if OTS/CB got involved in this area.

[redacted]

M. David Boston
Chief, OTS/CB

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