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ORD # 3511-67

6 JUN 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Research and Development, DDS&T

SUBJECT : Project OXYGAS

1. We are grateful for the report which Drs. [redacted] and Stephen Aldrich made to the Technical Requirements Board (TRB) on 16 May 1967, on the status of Project OXYGAS. The guidance of the TRB was requested by them as to whether or not there was operational justification for continuing the program and, if so, as to new tasks for which animal training and systems design should be initiated.

2. It is the view of the Board that Project OXYGAS should be oriented toward developing intelligence collection systems rather than maritime sabotage systems. It is our impression that Drs. [redacted] and Aldrich understand and concur in this. We have reflected at length on the more significant question, namely, what we reasonably can expect the future usefulness of trained dolphins to be. The Board has been forced to conclude that it requires more specific information than has been available to date before it can arrive at a firm position in this respect. The information most needed relates to our capability to guide dolphins over a range of at least twelve miles in unfamiliar waters. Also, the Board would like assurance that dolphins can be trained to seek out and retrieve a "black box" submerged in shallow water or floating near the shore, the dolphins having entered the water from twelve miles out.

3. The results of the short-term feasibility tasks, which BSD/ORD plans to undertake with dolphins prior to 31 October 1967 will be of high interest to the TRB and,

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to a considerable extent, should reveal the potential value of training and maintaining dolphins for operational tasks. Meanwhile, the TRB feels that any longer range commitments should be held in abeyance.

[redacted]
Chairman
Technical Requirements Board

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