

IDEA 0011  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)  
SUBJECT: Project IDEALIST Aircraft Modification

1. The attached Activity Program for Project IDEALIST development is submitted for your approval.

2. Subject Activity Program proposes the following modifications for U-2 and U-2C aircraft:

a. Two U-2C aircraft to be modified for inflight refueling. These aircraft to be assigned to [REDACTED]

25X1A

b. Four U-2C aircraft to be modified for single side-band equipment. Two of these aircraft to be assigned to [REDACTED] two to be transferred to the [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

c. No modifications proposed for any U-2 aircraft.

3. Summary of proposed aircraft assignment follows:

25X1A

a. [REDACTED]

(1) Two U-2C with inflight refueling and single side-band installation.

(2) One U-2 with present configuration.

25X1A

b. [REDACTED]

Two U-2 aircraft with present configuration.

25X1A

[REDACTED]

Two U-2C aircraft with single side-band installation.

4. With the completion of the proposed modification program the following operational capability will ensue:

25X1A

a. [REDACTED] The Project IDEALIST overflight capability will be vested in this unit. World-wide photographic reconnaissance could be accomplished. Recall of mission aircraft could be effected.

25X1A

b. [REDACTED] Primary mission would be peripheral ELINT collection. Photographic coverage of the Middle East and/or Africa could be accomplished. No recall capability would exist.

25X1A

c. [REDACTED] Primary mission would be photographic coverage of the China Mainland. Recall of mission aircraft could be effected.

5. Paragraph 3. of the attached Activity Program presents the cost estimates for related modifications which include a high altitude restart capability for the U-2C aircraft and additional single side-band modification for the U-2 aircraft. These related modifications are not recommended at this time. The following are comments in this regard:

a. High altitude restart: The cost estimate of \$300,000 for this modification may be prohibitively high in view of the extremely low incident of flame-outs experienced in the past with the J-75 engine.

25X1A

b. Single side-band: This installation is recommended for U-2 aircraft [REDACTED] is to remain in place to conduct peripheral ELINT missions. A recall capability would be essential if an effective quick reaction capability is to be assured.

STANLEY W. BEERLI  
Colonel USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD-DB/P

Attachment - 1

As noted above (IDEA 0005)

25X1A

**DPD/CPS [REDACTED] pd (3 November 1960)**

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