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**ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

DEC 11 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT)**

SUBJECT: Electronic Photo-Enhancing of Reconnaissance Photography

The SAMOS program has a potential for obtaining tremendous volumes of reconnaissance photography. To accommodate this volume, developments are underway to provide necessary equipments and techniques for automatic film processing, cataloguing and storage. However, it appears that insufficient emphasis is being provided in the area of photo interpretation. High quality photo interpretation of current aircraft reconnaissance system output is difficult for a variety of reasons. This already difficult task will be even more difficult with the advent of large volumes of the relatively lower resolution output photography of satellite systems.

The attached internal ARPA memorandum describes some of the factors contributing to the photo interpreter's difficulties. It also recommends the initiation of a program of development and testing of a ground system of photo enhancement which would facilitate photo interpretation. This agency had planned to support such a program for use with the SAMOS System if similar work was not already being sponsored by the Air Force.

Due to transfer of the SAMOS program, it is no longer appropriate for ARPA to support this type work. However, this area is of such importance in terms of a satisfactory intelligence end product, that these memoranda are offered for your consideration with the recommendation that a program, in the subject area, be implemented.

Don R. Ostrander

Don R. Ostrander
Major General, USAF
Acting Director

Attachment

cc: 3/Gen. H. A. Boushey, AFDAT

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