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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

3 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL KEEGAN, AFIN

SUBJECT: Accelerated Space Sensor Development

REFERENCE: AF/IN Memo, dated July 9, 1973, same subject.

I agree with your assessment that special attention should be paid to collection of intelligence which will contribute to determination of the Pnuts facilities' function. As the facility nears completion, even the best quality conventional photography will in all likelihood yield progressively less new information on the operations within the complex.

Your request to FTD to develop a [redacted] statement of requirement parameters is most timely. I am convinced that at this early phase in developing a capability against this facility we consider all of the parameters which might yield useful information. Since we are not certain what the facility does, we should consider all of the hypotheses and identify those indicators which we might be able to collect for each hypothesis. Some of these indicators may be common to any hypothesized function. Others may be unique to a specific mission for the facility. Once the list of potential indicators is developed, we can determine whether collection resources exist which can be targeted against these specific parameters, whether modifications to existing resources are possible, or whether new resources must be developed. If Dr. Teller's hypothesis is correct, that Pnuts is a facility for research totally different from any technology within the U.S. experience, we will most certainly require innovative intelligence analysis to determine its true nature. I wish to enlist your support in this effort and request you instruct FTD not to confine their indicator development work to the Charged Particle Beam theory, but to consider as well what indicators might appear with other facility functions.

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I believe you are correct concerning the urgency of this matter. I have taken the following near-term steps:

a. As you know, I have asked my Staff to investigate the types of sensors which might be useful in providing information on PNUTS. This effort will be greatly assisted by FTD's work in developing indicator estimates, and I suggest that our Staffs work closely together on this. Project Officer for this work on Brigadier General Kulpa's Staff is Maj [REDACTED]

b. Preliminary analysis indicates that it does not seem feasible for existing photo systems to collect imagery of the required resolution in the 8-14 micron spectral region. [REDACTED]

c. While I am quite familiar with the intelligence analysis which has been done on PNUTS, some of my Staff was not. I requested FTD to provide a briefing on the PNUTS facility to my Staff. This was done on July 25, 1973.

[REDACTED]  
John L. McClucas

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