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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

[REDACTED]



8 Oct 73.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Subject: Proposed SR-71 Deployment

1. There is an immediate requirement for photographic and [REDACTED] of military targets in Syria and Egypt. Highest priority is accorded to military dispositions and surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites in Egypt along the Suez Canal and in Syria near the Golan Heights.

2. [REDACTED]

N/R
FOIA(b)
+
FOIA(b):

3. [REDACTED]

4. In view of the above, the immediate deployment of an SR-71 to [REDACTED] is proposed to provide the basis for:

Classified by [REDACTED] *
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF [REDACTED] ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION [REDACTED] Para 5B (2)(3)
DECLASSIFY ON IMP. DET.

E.O. 12356, 21.3(a)
FOIA(b)(3)
50 U.S.C. 203-3(1)

[REDACTED]

73-1012

[REDACTED]

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★ [REDACTED]

a. Off shore peripheral coverage of targets in Syria and Egypt, including ports, coastal airfields and combat operations in the Sinai within 20 miles of the coast.

b. Overhead coverage of all important target areas, particularly during periods when [REDACTED] sources do not provide the basis for adequate assessment of the tactical situation.

5. The proposed SR-71 operation in the Middle East will require:

a. [REDACTED] approval to use [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] have agreed in principle to the use of [REDACTED] for SR-71 operations in contingency situations, subject to prior political approval on a case-by-case basis.

b. Authority for SR-71 overflight of [REDACTED] and use of [REDACTED] Air Base, [REDACTED] for tanker support and emergency SR-71 recovery.

c. Authority to use [REDACTED] Air Base, [REDACTED], for tanker support (note: special SR-71 fuel is pre-positioned at [REDACTED]). In the event that use of [REDACTED] for tanker support is denied, additional tankers, with SR-71 fuel from the United States, would be deployed to Mildenhall and Torrejon to support SR-71 operations in the Middle East area).

6. It is requested that the Department of State be authorized to initiate action to obtain political approval for use of the SR-71 as outlined above and that CINCSAC be authorized to deploy one SR-71 and necessary support to [REDACTED] subsequent to political approval by the [REDACTED]. Operational tracks will be forwarded prior to any mission from [REDACTED] to the crisis area in the Middle East.

★ FOIA (b)(1)
E.O. 13356; 81.31

FOIA (b)(1)
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★ [REDACTED]

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