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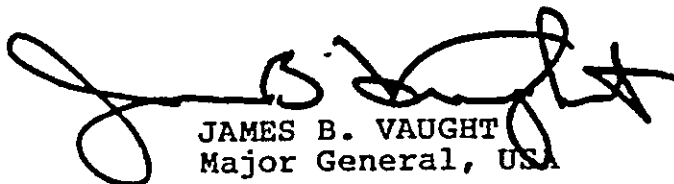
3 November 1980

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, JOINT RECONNAISSANCE CENTER

Subject: SR 71 Mission Request

1. (U) (TS) Request consideration be given to conducting several SR 71 surveillance missions of the Persian Gulf during the next 3-6 weeks.
2. (U) (TS) Purpose of mission is to determine locations of major oil rig concentrations and typical flow pattern of Gulf shipping to assist in selection of low level air penetration routes.
3. (U) (TS) Recognize that missions could raise Soviet/Iran/ME speculation; however, given irregular scheduling, direct association with any US military planning will probably be low. On the other hand, periodic SR 71 missions would provide "reason" for increased tanker support in the area prior to the execution of any US military contingency action.


JAMES B. VAUGHT
Major General, USA

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DECLASSIFY ON 3 NOV 2008

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