

[Redacted]

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15 July 1958

Peripheral ELINT Missions

Capabilities

1. No existing ferret configuration possesses a probability of intercept comparable to the System Four supplemented by Systems One and Three [Redacted] carried by the U-2. The high probability results from:

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- a. Greater coverage due to height (400 miles line flight).
- b. Faster sweeping receivers.
- c. More positions.
- d. Automatic recording on both film and tape.
- e. Better system sensitivity.

2. Through the use of the System Four lies the best assurance to date against the surprise introduction of new electronics systems by the USSR. We are concerned about electronic breakthrough in the development of new systems, for the appearance of new equipments in the field, and for the extent of their deployment as well as the preparation of instruments for detection and countermeasures which may be shelved pending hostilities.

3. Considerable information, which may well reduce the element of surprise, can be collected through peripheral missions by searching out areas of known or suspected intensive electronic development and testing such as at LENINGRAD or OB (at known airfields).

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4. Areas for search. It is proposed that System Four peripheral ELINT missions be directed against LENINGRAD via the Gulf of Finland and against the White Sea district via the BARENTS Sea.

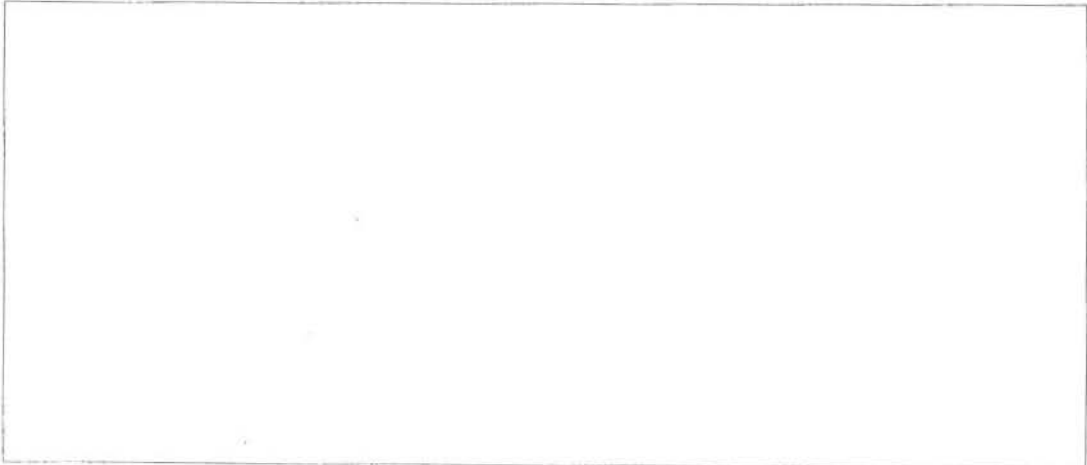
5. The coastal areas indicated generally lay within the White Sea district. The USAFE ELINT Order of Battle (EOB) for 1 May 1958 shows the White Sea district to be populated by relatively few radar, and those listed are of an older or antiquated type. Based upon findings from previous peripheral ELINT missions, we strongly suspect that this probably does not represent a true picture.

6. Whereas we put great emphasis on the search element of such missions to uncover hitherto unknowns in the electronic field, we are aware of a number of specific targets from which we expect to receive signals. These specific targets are listed as follows:

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7. Preliminary analysis of four peripheral ELINT missions in the BARENTS Sea, BLACK Sea, and CASPIAN Sea at a time when System Four was subject to greater malfunction than today suggests strongly that we should be able to obtain very significant information in the areas now proposed. At Tab A is set forth some of the more significant results of the preliminary analysis of the earlier peripheral missions.

8. Apart from the value in itself of the information which can be collected, the broad scope of collection of System Four should provide considerable guidance for the direction of other types of ELINT collection.



JAMES Q. REBER  
Chairman

Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

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Attachment

Tab A

- JQR:cw
- 1-SA/PD/DCI
- 2-Dep Dir DPS/DCI
- 3-Dir Ops DPS/DCI
- 4-OSI TCO
- 5-
- 6- } SA/PD/DCI on 28 July
- 7-Chmn ARC -
- 8-PS/DCI chrono
- Series A, 3 cys 29 July
- 1-CACS I
- 2-ONI
- 3-Chmn Arc.

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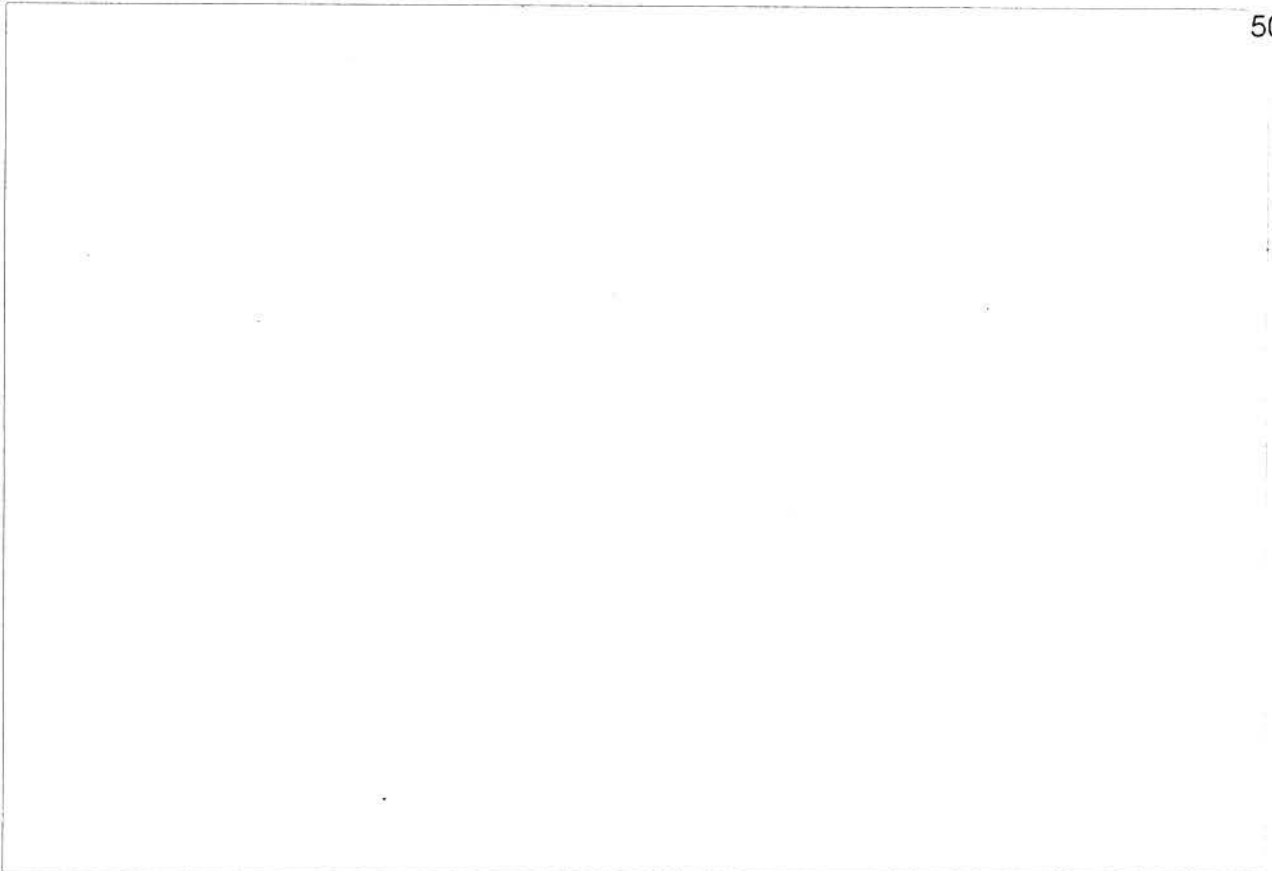
TAB A

Important Intercepts for Peripheral System Four Missions

1. The following examples of important intercepts collected from peripheral coverage of the Soviet Union in the BARENTS Sea, the BLACK Sea, and the CASPIAN illustrate the kind of exploratory work which can be accomplished through peripheral missions.

2. System Four is a relatively new equipment, and through continuous domestic testing and some peripheral ELINT missions on the edge of the Soviet, the reliability has been constantly improving.

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