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28

Prefile

Tuesday, August 15, 1967
6:10 p.m.

Mr. President:

These pictures came by satellite.

If they hadn't blown a fuse -- or
something -- they might have gotten
here from Saigon in hours.

The system may prove useful
in the future.

W. W. Rostow

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NEJ 94-420
By inf, NARA Date 10-26-95

WWRostow:rln

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

28a

15 August 1967

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-420

By 10, NARA, Date 10-26-95

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

Attached are the prints from which the blowups were made, which you received earlier today.

These were transmitted via satellite.

The copies sent by air are expected to arrive in Washington later today. If it had not been for a generator failure, you could have received the pictures three days ago.

This system is still in the R&D stage. The technique was developed by CBS Laboratories, using a precisely controlled high intensity laser beam. The data transmitted from Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, arrives in the Washington, D.C. area within seconds via a two-hop link, using the Defense Communications Agency Relay Satellite System. The data are encrypted. The system now has the capability of transmitting 25 inches of a strip, like that attached, in one hour. General Stekley hopes to double the capacity in a month.

This system now makes it possible for the President to receive photography on "significant" targets within a few hours after the photos are taken.

A few cautions are in order:

- a. Capacity is limited.
- b. Equipment outages must be expected since the system is still in R&D.
- c. The satellites are not always in the necessary locations.

It would give the system a useful boost if you would casually mention to Mr. McNamara White House interest in this project.

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ROBERT N. GINSBURGH

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23

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