

3 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: E. C. Aldridge, Jr.  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office (S/B)

SUBJECT: Commendation for the Operation of HEXAGON Mission 1217  
(S/B-H)

1. The recent recovery of the final film increment of HEXAGON Mission 1217 brought to a conclusion the most successful mission of the HEXAGON Program. This mission achieved several firsts within the program. It had the longest active mission life; it was the first to employ the improved film looper which reduced considerably the amount of film wastage; and it provided the largest amount of cloud-free coverage ever achieved. (TS/B-H)

2. This mission filled a significant void by providing an excellent data base of broad area search coverage on Communist countries and Third World areas of major concern to the Intelligence Community. As you are aware, the Community had gone for sometime without adequate broad area search coverage. (S)

3. I commend you and your organization for the outstanding manner in which this mission's resources were managed and operated. I would, in particular, like to congratulate and thank Colonels Lester McChristian and [redacted] and their respective staffs for their professionalism, dedication, and overall efforts which made this such a successful mission. Please convey my appreciation to all involved in this effort. (S/B)

*William J. Casey*  
William J. Casey

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, PROGRAM A

*Jan*  
SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

Attached is a letter I received from Mr. William Casey, Director of Central Intelligence. His comments regarding HEXAGON Mission 1217 are especially gratifying, and I wanted to pass them on to you with my added congratulations and thanks for an exceptional effort.

I would like you to pass on my appreciation to both Les and Tom as well as to their staffs for their outstanding contribution. It is always extremely gratifying to have the outstanding professionalism and superior abilities of our personnel recognized by those with whom we deal.

Special activities such as ours place exceptional demands on the people and the complex systems they interact with. Successes, like HEXAGON Mission 1217, are a great tribute to the competence, professionalism, and dedication of all of the individuals involved. Please convey my heartfelt appreciation for their efforts.

*E. C. Aldridge, Jr.*

E. C. Aldridge, Jr.

1 Attachment  
Ltr frm the DCI,  
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