MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Projects

SUBJECT: Prognosis for RV-3 Recovery Operations

1. Discussions with Navy personnel (OP-23) indicate the status of the IOU (Integrated Operating Unit) as of 1000 hours today is as follows:

   a. They are on station.

   b. Sea conditions are still not calm enough to launch Trieste. Swells are about nine feet.

   c. Forecast WX shows a 50/50 possibility of launching Trieste starting Friday, 4 February 1972.

   d. In event Trieste is not in water by 7 February, Navy plans on making decision shortly thereafter as to future operations. Alternatives for the IOU are as follows:

      (1) Return to San Diego for R&R and type training, sailing for Pearl Harbor to arrive there mid-May for operations.

      (2) Return to San Diego for R&R, docking and repair at White Sands, type training and then sail for Pearl Harbor to arrive there early September for operations.

      (3) Return to Pearl Harbor, replenish and return to operating area when weather condition prognostication is favorable for operations.
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(4) Return to Pearl Harbor, replenish (4-5 days) and return to operating area.

(5) Cancel Project.

2. I do not recommend that alternative (5) be implemented for technical, security and establishing capability reasons. I recommend implementation of the alternatives in the following priority (3), (4), (1), and (2).

3. I am keeping in daily contact with OP-23. If you concur with the recommendations of Paragraph 2, I will inform the Navy of the Agency position.

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