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16 April 2014

Mr. John Greenwald, Jr.
The Black Vault



Reference: F-2014-01293

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is a final response to your 10 April 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received in the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator on 10 April 2014, for a **copy of all documents pertaining to "Noah's Ark."**

Our records show that we conducted a search on behalf of an earlier request for records pertaining to the subject of your request. Therefore, we are enclosing the 12 documents, consisting of 49 pages, which we believe to be responsive to your request. These documents were located and released in connection with the earlier request and as part of another release program. Because you are entitled to the first 100 pages free, there is no charge for these documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Meeks".

Michele Meeks
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

Background: Dr. Carver is considered to be "America's foremost authority on intelligence and security." He served as Deputy for National Intelligence to two (2) former Directors of the CIA and as the senior U.S. intelligence officer in NATO. He is a Yale graduate and has a doctorate from Oxford University. He is the only person in the history of the CIA to be twice awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Title of Dr. Carver's Speech: "We Cannot Afford Surprises - We Must Be Prepared To Prevent Them."

★ Excerpt from Question and Answer Session

Porcher L. Taylor, III: "Dr. Carver, I'm a West Point graduate and while I was a cadet at the Academy in 1973, there was a strong rumor going around, that one of our military spy satellites was flying down the Russian/Turkish corridor taking photographs of a Soviet missile site and apparently accidentally took photographs on the Turkish side, of a large wooden object which appeared to be a ship stuck in a glacier about 14,000 feet on Mount Ararat. Strong rumors going around the Academy at that time was that apparently our intelligence people at the CIA might have classified photographs of Noah's Ark, and I was wondering if you had any comments about that."

Laughter From Audience.

Dr. Carver: "Well, I don't recall the CIA working on Noah's Ark, but I do remember that at the time there were some pictures taken, and there were clear indications that there was something ~~was~~ up on Mount Ararat, which was rather strange. There was various archaeological expeditions that were mounted. The Turkish government was not to thrilled about supporting them, because it was getting into an area that was politically dicey from the Turks' point of view. But that is but one of the indications, you know, I haven't been up there, I don't think anyone has, but it certainly was eyebrow lifting and it was certainly another indication that despite its splendor as a work of poetry, the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, might not be all that bad as history also."

Porcher L. Taylor, III: "Thank you, Sir."

★ Transcribed from Tape by Palm Beach Roundtable

Executive order to release crucial CIA photos

1973 is believed to show Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat in Eastern Turkey

Washington. An anomaly, taken by military movements 1973 Arab-Israeli war. The picture mask the precision the U.S. possessed at the existence of such

an executive order in preparation was none other than the departing chief of CIA, Director James Woolsey himself. In a testimony he gave at the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on January 11, 1995, he confirmed that such an executive directive could be signed any time soon. Answering a question on the "prioritization of intelligence" data, Woolsey said that a "presidential decision directive I think will be coming out here within the next few weeks..."

Tim Weiner, writing in the New York Times on Oct. 30, 1994 previously confirmed that "Clinton administration promised a new executive order on government secrecy... It looked like documents 25 years or older would be readily declassified..." Jessica Matthews of the Council on Foreign Relations also wrote in the Washington Post on Nov. 13, 1994 that the Clinton administration is "set to issue a new executive order to... release old material," including potentially invaluable

See "CLINTON" on page A8

Clinton may sign executive order to release crucial CIA photos

classified photos intelligence community. News that included it will be presidential release a group of reconnaissance satellites key closely is that anomaly" of 1973, III, a West Point idea who has been incident for the last is not yet 25 years that CIA director a special appeal to by 1994 to have it be released. s called the "Ararat he was a student "Everybody knew ure," Taylor said. he word got around lly shot a picture of om under the thick There was a wide CIA photo inter- zentious picture was ark-shaped object. mit anything." The l in a gorge about the summit on the Various attempts to any results either. DN that the summer Arab military build

up that would lead to the Yom Kippur War in the following October. Thus the U.S. wanted to get pictures of the Soviet troop movements and "the Soviet nuclear missile site forty miles to the east of Mount Ararat." "According to the rumor when I was at West Point, one of our military reconnaissance satellites flying over the Soviet-Turkish border taking pictures of top-secret Soviet missile site on the Soviet border has captured something else instead," he said. "Someone accidentally turned on the cameras a few seconds early, and the satellite picked up a large "anomalous object" jutting out of the ice cap located at about 13,000 foot level on the north face of Mount Ararat." The rumor was that the object was manmade, constructed of wood, and over 400 feet in estimated length. The photo was the subject of a CBS television prime time two-hour special aired on February 20, 1993, "The Incredible Discovery of Noah's Ark." On that show, several retired military pilots claimed that the Pentagon had quality photos of the "object." There have been numerous attempts in the past to discover "Noah's Ark" on Mt. Ararat, including much publicized expeditions organized by U.S. astronaut Jim Irving. None of these expeditions produced any conclusive results. What convinced Taylor as to the authenticity of the rumored photo was the confirmation he received from one of the esteemed names of the U.S. intelligence community, George A. Carver, Jr. Carver served as deputy for National Intelligence to two former CIA Directors and as the senior U.S. intelligence officer in NATO. He is the only person in the history of the CIA to be twice awarded the Distinguished

Intelligence Medal. Taylor met Dr. Carver at a Round Table meeting held on March 11, 1993 in Palm Beach, Florida. In the question and answer session following Carver's speech, Taylor asked him if he had any comments on the "Ararat Anomaly" photo. Carver said "I do remember at the time there were some pictures taken, and there were clear indications that there was something up on Mt. Ararat, which was rather strange. There were various archaeological expeditions that were mounted. The Turkish government was not too thrilled about supporting them, because it was getting into an area that was politically dicey from the Turks' point of view." Carver added that "the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, might not be all that bad as history also" since it talked about Noah's Ark landing on Mt. Ararat. Frank Cilluffo, a fellow at the Center of Strategic and International Studies, who had worked with Dr. Carver in the past as his assistant on various projects, confirmed for TDN that "Dr. Carver was very excited" about the "Ararat Anomaly" photo in question. The TDN has learned that a senior member of the U.S. Congress is now aware of the issue and one of his top aides reportedly got in touch with the CIA and the White House, as well as the National Security Council for inclusion of such CIA photos within the expected presidential directive. A source close to the CIA confirmed for TDN that the directive "might be signed soon" by President Clinton. Yet the White House refrained from confirming or denying the directive and its contents. "I am not authorized to talk to press on that," a White House press official told TDN. CNN and Time magazine are expected to do special sto-



Central Intelligence Agency
Office of the Deputy Director for Science & Technology

7 February 1994

NOTE FOR: EA/DCI
ES/Action Officer

FROM: EA/DDS&T

SUBJECT: Noah's Ark and Mt. Ararat

b3

[REDACTED]

I have provided copies of imagery contained in OIA's and NPIC's files on Noah's Ark and Mt. Ararat. As you can see by the accompanying record of requests for information, we have consistently denied requests for release of this imagery due to classification considerations. The documentation also suggests that we have never been able to conclusively identify Noah's Ark.

We have responded to FOIA requests on a case-by-case basis, and have no efforts currently underway either to review other records or conduct additional searches for Noah's Ark in the Mt. Ararat region.

Please let me know if there is any additional information you request.

b3



Approved for Release
Date Aug 1999

~~NOFORN~~

OIA [redacted] 172/92
2 June 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director OIA
SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

We reviewed a request--and its accompanying video--for assistance in locating Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat in northeastern Turkey. The request, made by Charles Aaron of the Tsirah Corporation, was sent to the Director of Central Intelligence, who forwarded it to OIA. Mr. Aaron's letter stated a belief that the Agency has the technical capability to look through hundreds of feet of ice and asked that we use this technology to aid his search for the Ark. To the best of OIA's knowledge, there is no such existing technology. ~~(S)~~

We have looked at existing imagery--dated November 1990 through January 1992--of Mt. Ararat and are unable to confirm the existence of the Ark or its proposed location as depicted in the video and the letter. The letter's description of two possible locations was not of sufficient detail to be useful. Further, the data provided in the letter was inconsistent with the video. However, even with more detailed information, we doubt we will be able to respond to Mr. Aaron's request. ~~(S) (NF) (SI)~~

This information was researched by [redacted]

Attachments

~~NOFORN
SECRET~~

~~Warning Notice
Intelligence Sources or
Methods Involved (WNINTEL)
Derivative of S3214
Declassify on: DR
Derived From: SPS~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~NOFORN~~

Noah's Ark Project(s)

27 May 1992:

- A. Recieved request to locate Noah's Ark
 - Requestor: Charles P. Aaron, Tsirah Corp
 - Date of letter: 14 April 1992
 - Sent to Robert Gates
 - Included two maps, artist's rendition of Noah's Ark, and a video of expeditions to Mt. Ararat.

- B. Searched NDS for imagery of Mt. Ararat area
 - Found imagery dated November 1990 thru January 1992

- C. Searched imagery for area of interest shown in video
 - Found nothing conclusive, only two areas of apparent rock formations showing through the snow/ice
 - Made seikosha prints of areas from imagery and video (decision *not* to make formal, annotated prints was a corporate decision--we would be unable to send them to requestor)

1-2 June 1992

- A. Drafted a memo for D/OIA explaining the project and our findings
 - Unable to confirm existence of the Ark
 - Letter's description of two possible locations not sufficiently detailed to be useful
 - Data from letter appears to be inconsistent with the video

- B. D/OIA requested we draft a response to Tsirah Corp from Gary Foster, PAI
 - We are unable to provide assistance. Requestor's assumptions about our remote collection capabilities are overly optimistic.

~~SECRET~~
~~NOFORN~~

OIA, [REDACTED] 044/94

15 February 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: Ward R. Swain
Chief, Special Studies Division, OIA/NPIC/DS&T

SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

1. Action Requested: None. This is in response to your questions about imagery analysis related to Noah's Ark.

2. Background: The Office of Imagery Analysis (OIA), National Photographic Interpretation Center, DS&T, has no active project searching imagery of Mt. Ararat, Turkey, for evidence of Noah's Ark. We have responded to ad hoc requests from the DCI's office on this topic in the past. At the direction of DCI Gates, OIA in 1992 searched for the Ark on imagery routinely collected of the Mt. Ararat area between November 1990 and January 1992. That search revealed nothing conclusive; only two areas of apparent rock formations protruding through existing snow and ice. We subsequently received a request dated 15 January 1993 from [REDACTED] that was forwarded to former DCI Gates [REDACTED] Assistant, [REDACTED] Acting DCI Studeman's Special [REDACTED] directed on 21 January 1993 that further work on this topic be put on hold until further notice.

3. We are unaware of anyone pressing for analysis of extant imagery of Mt. Ararat in an attempt to locate the Ark except for the requests we have discussed above.

4. We doubt that a thorough search of imagery of Mt. Ararat for evidence of the Ark would be conclusive. With its summit at over 15,000 feet of elevation, Mt. Ararat is snow and ice covered virtually year round. Viewing conditions over the mountain vary by season--the months of July and August typically would be the

Approved for Release

Date. Aug 1999

CI By 543122
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3

~~SECRET~~

OIA [REDACTED] 044/94

SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

months of least snow and ice cover. An exhaustive analysis would require the review of all imagery collected by National Technical Means over Mt. Ararat over the past approximately 30 years. Imagery of the area from the past 18 months is at hand; the remainder is not readily available but could be retrieved from the imagery archives within about four to six weeks. Once the imagery was available, we estimate it would take half an analyst-year to complete the analysis.

5. A search of the imagery archives for coverage of Mt. Ararat, Turkey, would not require DCI approval.

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

OIA, [REDACTED] 044/94

SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

Distribution:

g. - Addressee

1 - EXDIR

1 - ER

1 - DDS&T

2 - DS&T/NPIC/OIA, [REDACTED]

1 - DS&T/NPIC/OIA, [REDACTED]

NPIC/OIA, [REDACTED] 34489 (15 Feb 1994)

10 February 1994

NOTE TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: EA/DDS&T
SUBJECT: Noah's Ark

[REDACTED]
Per our telecon, please draft a memo to the DCI via DDS&T, DDCI and ExDir, answering the questions on the attached note from the Executive Secretariat.

With regard to the last question on DCI approval to search the archives, please coordinate with Tony Frasketi (X50104) on the DDS&T's staff.

Please shoot for getting it to me by noon on Monday, 14 Feb, so I can get it to the ES by their deadline.

Thanks!

[REDACTED]
47185

Approved for Release
Date Aug 1999

4

ACTION

Office of the Director

9 Feb 94

Executive Secretariat


TO: EA/DDS&T

SUBJECT: More Noah's Ark


b3

The DCI has reviewed the Noah's Ark package you put together and has some follow-up questions and requests:

- The Director would like to know where we are in terms of doing anything on this project, i.e., is it a project and, if so, where does it stand?
- Related to this: Is anyone pressing for analysis of these photos? Whether they are or not, the DCI would like a short memo drafted addressing how easy/difficult it would be to do this search analysis, what costs there would be, and in general whether it would be worth it.
- The DCI has heard that he must approve any search of the archives. What are the facts about this?

I am holding the packet you sent in because EA/DCI wants it all back when your new information comes in. Let's shoot for 1600 on Monday 14 February for a deadline. Thanks.


b3



Office of the Director

Executive Secretariat 1 Feb 94

TO: EA/DDS&T

SUBJECT: Inquiries about Mt Ararat

b3

[REDACTED]

EA/DCI Janet Andres asked me last night if we could get a status report on what we've found in the way of imagery of Mount Ararat and Noah's Ark. As I mentioned to you earlier, [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

[REDACTED] have made inquiries about this, and the DCI needs to be able to tell them the status of our searches. (You may also recall that a former Astronaut-- Slayton, I think--gave the issue considerable publicity a few years back.)

I spoke with Tony Frasketi about this; as far as he knows, our searches are conducted on a case-by-case basis, depending on the FOIA request received. He mentioned, though, that NPIC apparently does have imagery of Mt Ararat.

Could you please check this out and let me know what efforts are underway and where they stand? Also, if we have imagery, the DCI would like to see it. I'd appreciate a response by 1530 Monday, 7 February. Thanks.

b3



~~SECRET~~

21 January 93

LLH
Leo,

• B. Lackman turned down Duane Andrew's request to declassify imagery of Noah's Ark for a TV production (decision memo attached). His response, obviously, was not directed to a congressman asking to use a sensor, but maybe it will help set precedent.

Sent to ADDET

• You mentioned the effort to declassify our association with satellite imagery. In October, I asked CIO to officially consider this (memo attached) because it no longer makes sense, especially with the NRO admitting in an unclassified press release that it does imagery business with CIA. Mark Scott gave this action to one of his staffers who was part of the Classification Standards Task Force. That individual told me he was adding it to to the whole list of classification topics to be reviewed—such as the Air Force's proposal to declassify imagery below NIIRS 3. Unfortunately, he was successful in finding another job (outside CIO) recently, and I think the work on my request has ceased, at least for the moment. Meanwhile, the Historical Review Group (with whom we work to review the old NIEs) doesn't seem to know (or won't acknowledge even after we have pointedly told them) such a restriction exists inasmuch as they tell us that the obvious linkage of information with overhead is not sufficient grounds for deletion of material. It's interesting that Lackman's memo, in para 2, cites this restriction in denying the Ark request.

Thanks
Life is neither
fair nor symmetrical
LLH

Approved for Release
Date Aug 1999

~~SECRET~~

April 14, 1992

The Honorable Robert Gates
Director, Office of the
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Director Gates:

I am writing at the suggestion of Dr. Bob Dugan, to request your assistance in a current archaeological research project in Turkey, which is attempting to locate any existing remains of Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat.

In past years, and in association with the late astronaut Jim Irwin and his foundation High Flight, I have assisted in and managed several officially permitted expeditions to Mt. Ararat involving helicopter reconnaissance for the remains of the Ark. These expeditions were conducted not only with the support of the Turkish government agencies, but that of U.S. senators, congressmen and our State Department at various times.

In conjunction with the historical record of sightings regarding the Ark, past efforts have brought our current focus to bear upon two important sites near the summit of Mt. Ararat. One location is south and west of the lower of the mountain's two summit peaks, almost exactly where several eye witnesses have reported "findings" over the past 50 years. This is also one of two areas that exhibit faint geometric shapes below the ice surface, revealed during years of sufficient melt down of the mountain's perennial ice cap. The other location which is of equal importance, is a volcanic depression or crater recognized as a "caldera," which is geologically static and has remained perennially ice-filled, forming a plateau at an elevation of approximately 4800 meters (15,200 feet.) This caldera and its plateau can

Approved for Release

Date Aug 1999

be seen in the video tape which is enclosed in this package. It covers an area of approximately 1,500 X 2,000 feet and may reach hundreds of feet in depth at its center, thereby containing millions of cubic yards of ice. Geologically, this body of ice characterizes many optimal parameters indicated for a viable repository of Ark remains.

Several qualified officials have confirmed to us that our government maintains a restricted-access satellite surveillance system which is capable of looking through such ice. We are not interested in gaining any first-hand exposure to or knowledge of this technology, as we recognize that this may violate governing security protocol. Our request to you is simply this: that you review this package in detail, then correlate surveillance data collected during the coldest period of the winter cycle with the general coordinates given on the enclosed grid sheet, noting the location of any sub-surface anomalies by brackets ([],) and listing their respective locations with G.P.S. navigation and positioning data.

The attached documents specify the exact latitude and longitude of the areas above mentioned, and are supplemented with correlating photographic and video documentation from our prior expeditions.

In reference to our permit related enclosures, we are now positioned to extend our permits for archaeological research which includes ice drilling equipment, the latest generation hand-held SIR ground penetrating radar equipment and helicopters for aerial reconnaissance and materiel supply requirements.

Your technical assistance in resolving the issue of the Summit and Caldera Regions would also serve to mitigate the future risk to our lives. This risk not only derives from the extreme physical environment of the region, but from the [PKK] terrorist element which is also a constant threat to ark researchers as evidenced by this past summer's hostage

taking incidents. In this regard, we have personally survived near encounters with the PKK, who were consequently interdicted by the Turkish [Jandarma] military on our behalf.

As you know, with respect to our rapidly changing world socio-political environment, as in this region in particular, the importance and significance of a successful search could not be overstated. With regard to our continued contribution to this end, our current project status is this: after nine (9) years of on-site research involving extensive ground, aerial and satellite reconnaissance technologies including LANDSAT, the French SPOT and Russian variants, we believe our continued field research is temporarily at an impasse, both practically and technologically, pending additional strategic facts about the site.

Our belief is that the surveillance data we have proposed accessing represents an important and significant opportunity to provide specific new leads and direction for the meaningful and responsible continuation of our field research.

Your consideration of our request is greatly appreciated. If you or any of your staff should have any questions or require any further information, references, etc., please do not hesitate to contact me at: (800) 952-3777 (Business.)

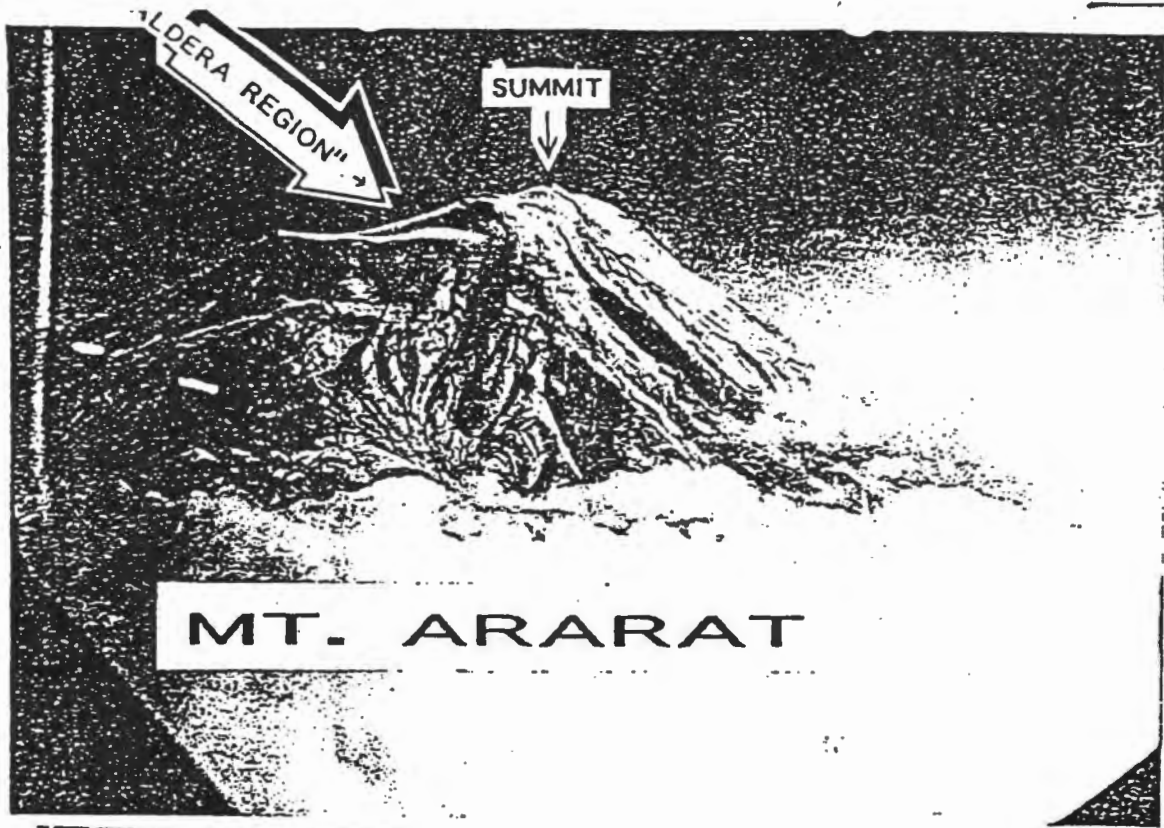
Respectfully submitted,



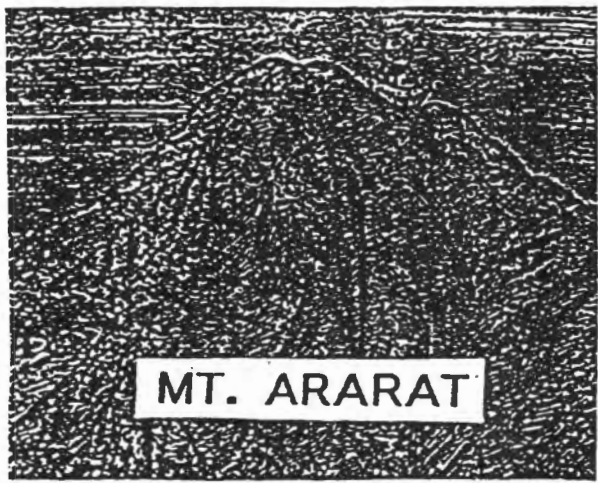
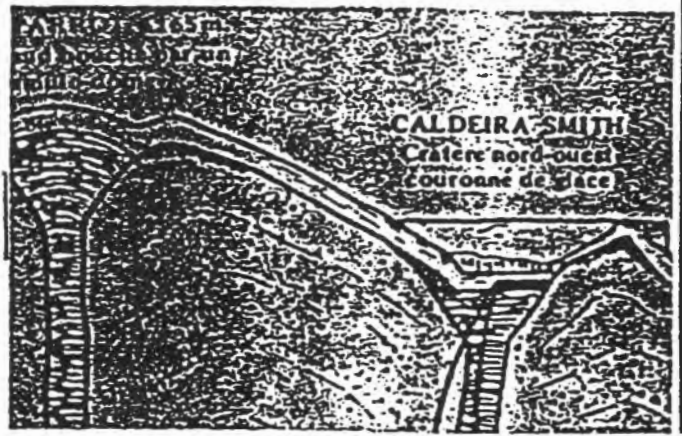
Charles P. Aaron
Chief Pilot & Director of Operations
Tsirah Corp.

cc: Dr. Bob Dugan, Jr.

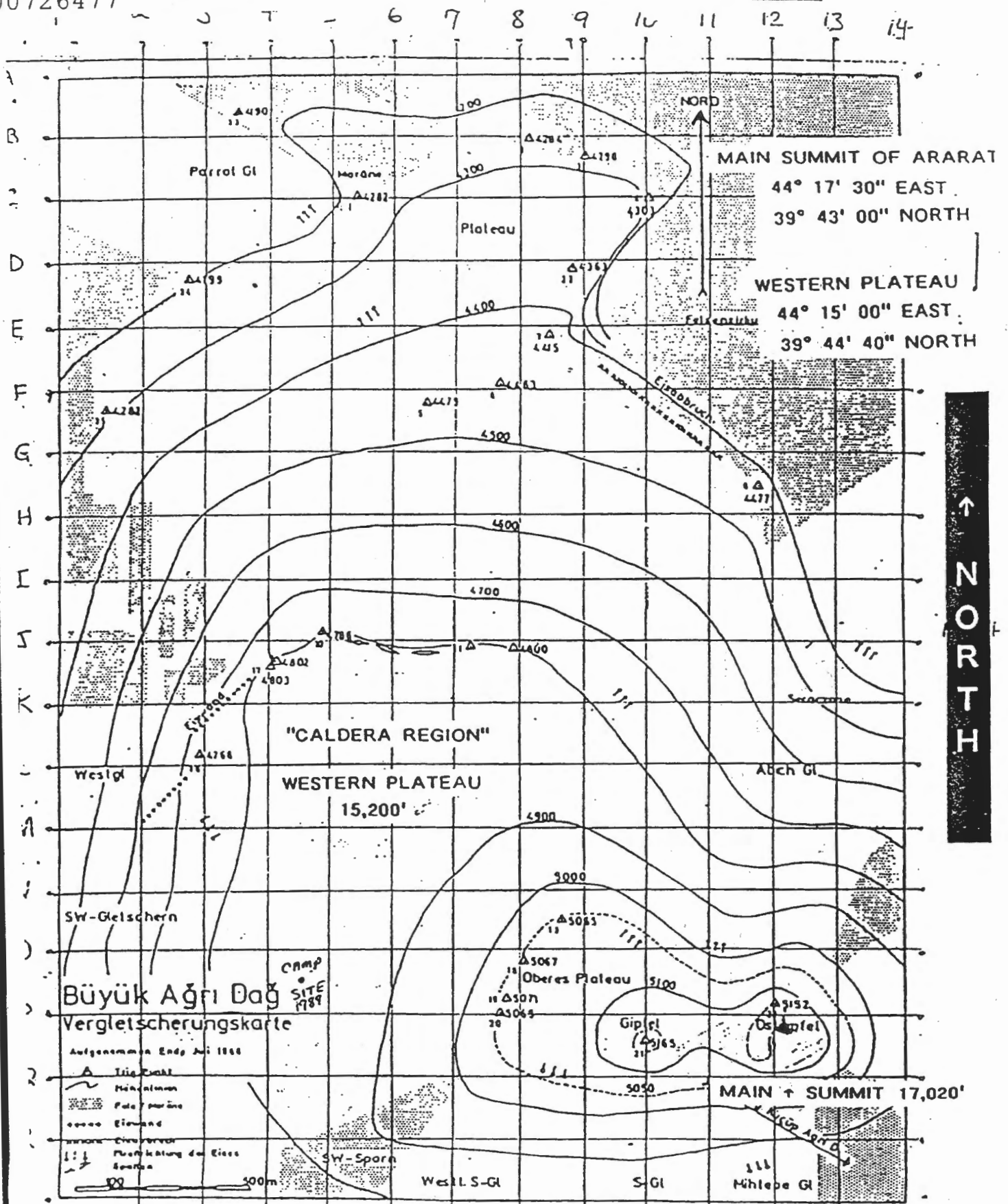
Enclosures: Video/Stills & Map/Data Pkg.



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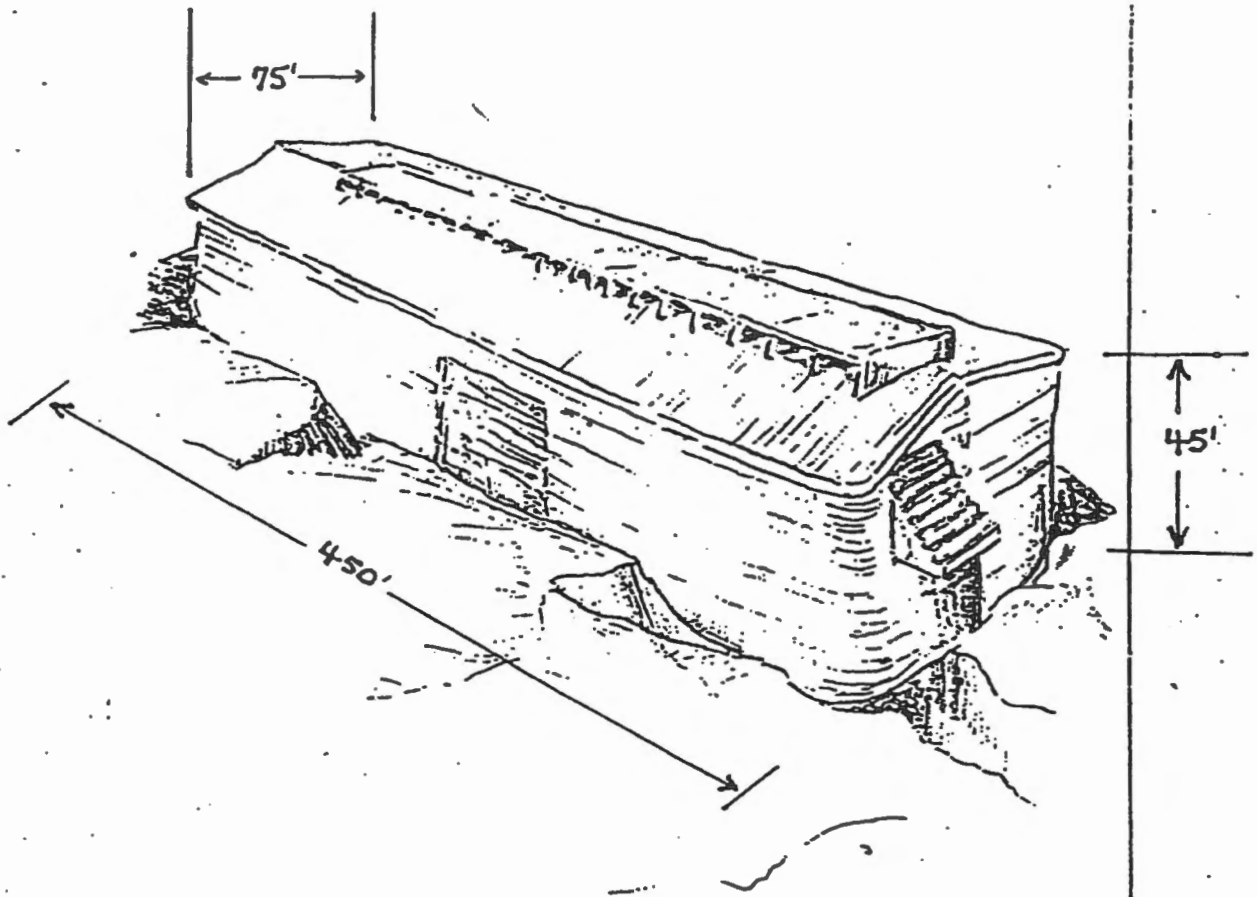


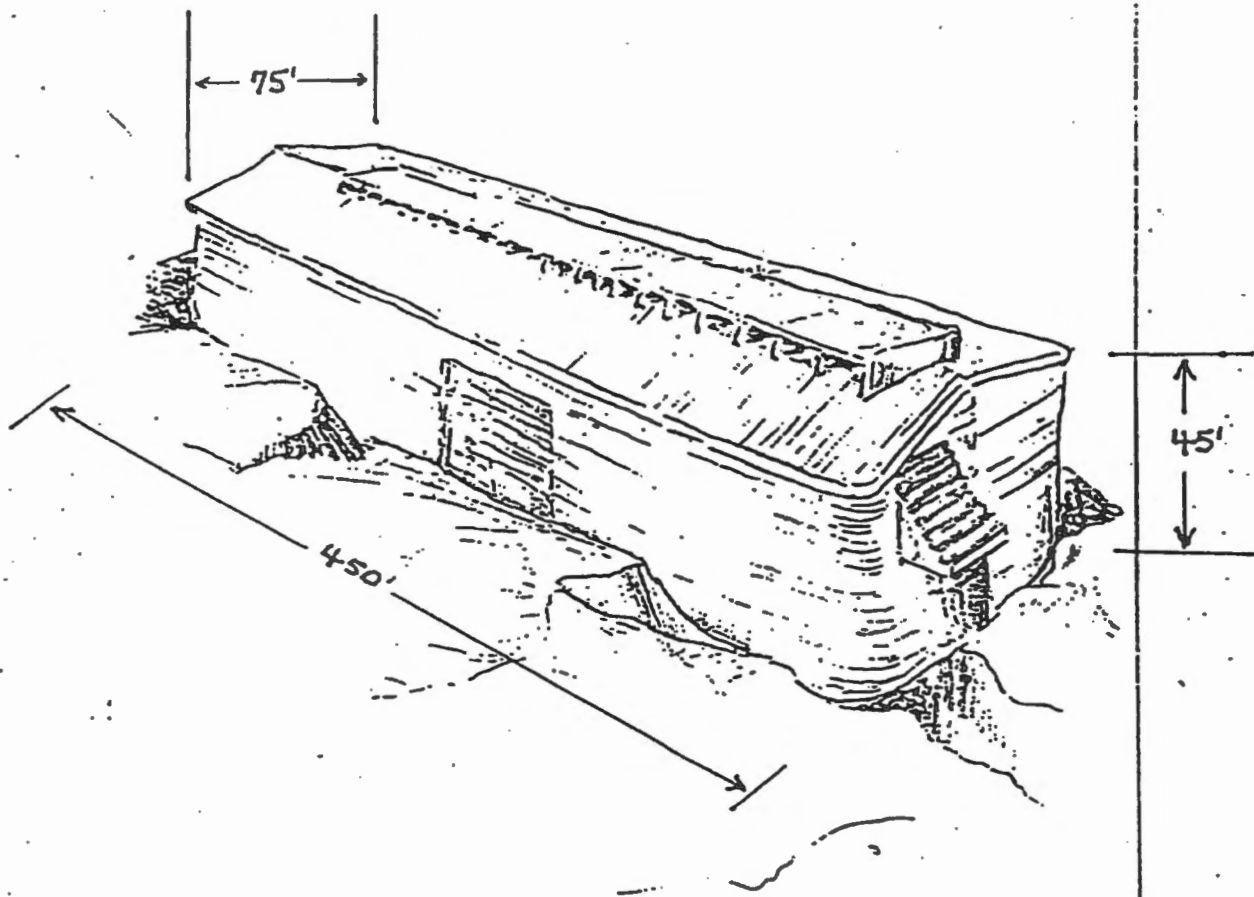
MT. ARARAT

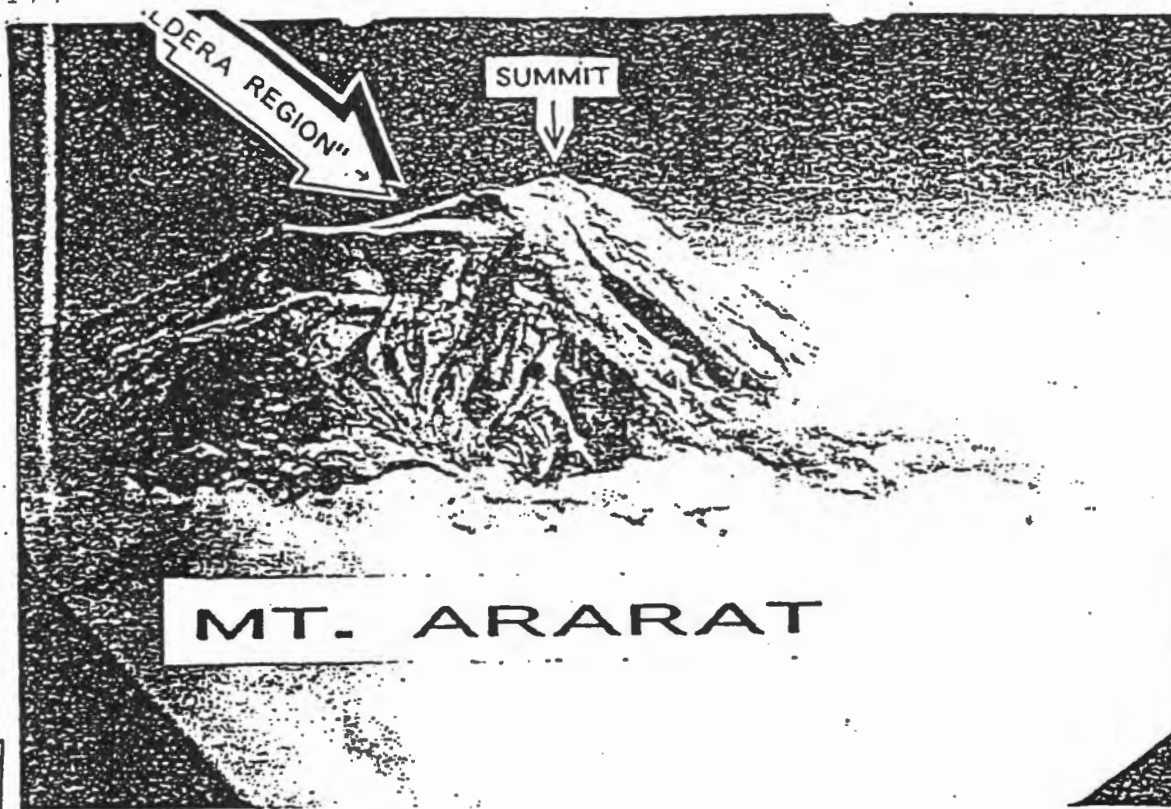


↑ NORTH

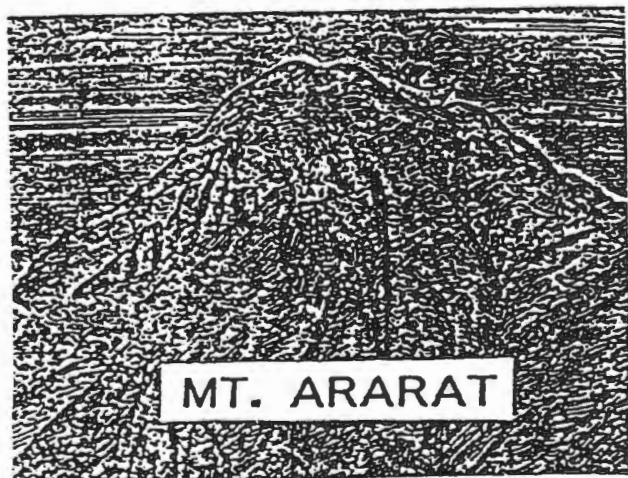
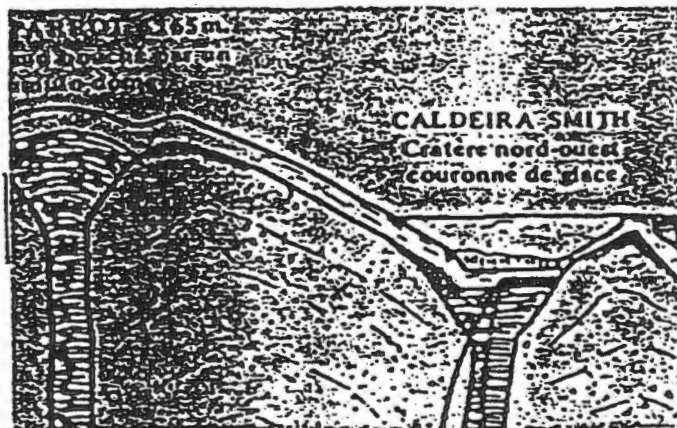
Abb. 2: Büyük Ađrı Dađ oder Grođer Ararat. Detailkarte der Gipfelregion mit Angabe der im Juli 1900 trigonometrisch bestimmten Punkte. Höhenangaben in Metern, bezogen auf die Höhe 5166 m des Hauptgipfels.

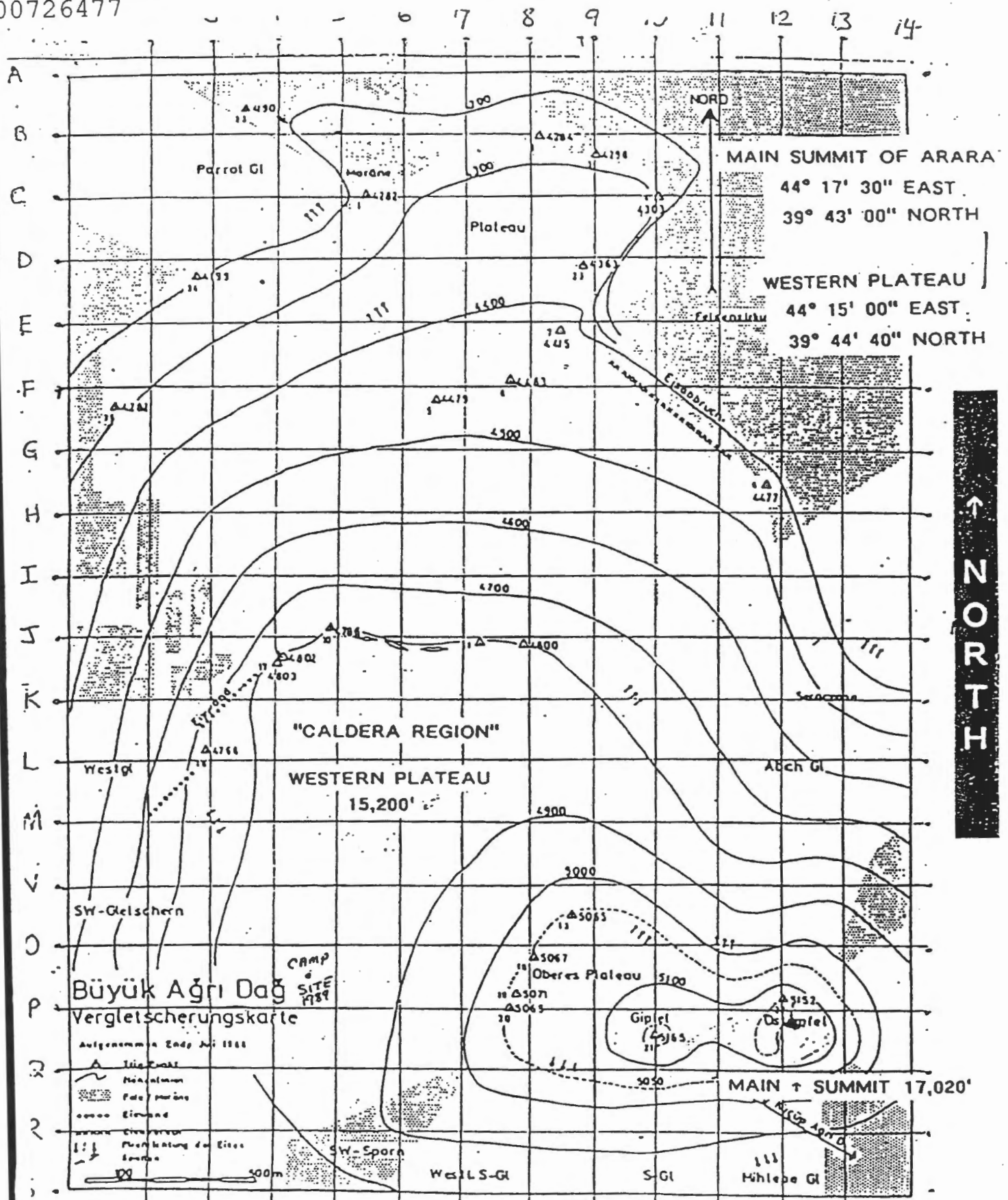






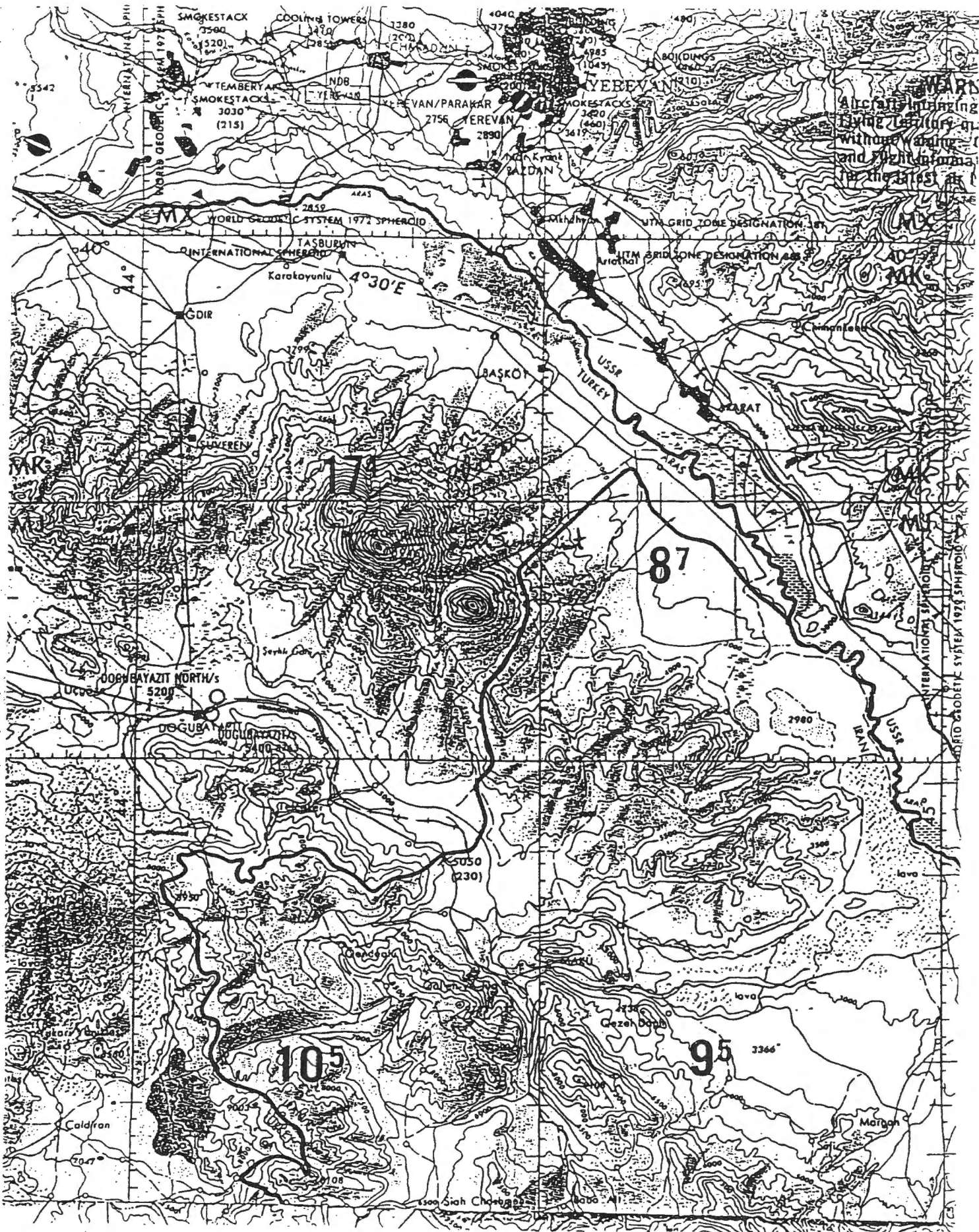
WESTERN PLATEAU





NORTH

Abb. 2: Büyük Ağrı Dağı oder Großer Ararat. Detailkarte der Gipferegion mit Angabe der im Juli 1906 trigonometrisch bestimmten Punkte. Höhenangaben in Metern, bezogen auf die Höhe 5106 m des Hauptgipfels.



WEARS
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Lytic Laboratory of
without damage
and information
for the latest air

INTERNATIONAL SPHEROID
WORLD GEODETIC SYSTEM 1972 SPHEROID

~~SECRET~~

OIA/ [redacted] 283/94
12 August 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted] ADS&T-IRD, DS&T
FROM: [redacted] Chief, [redacted] OIA/NPIC/DS&T
SUBJECT: FOIA Request on Noah's Ark Imagery

1. In response to Mr. Porcher L'Engle Taylor's Freedom of Information request, we searched the KH-1 through KH-6 satellite systems databases for imagery that may cover Mt. Ararat, Turkey. According to the databases, the KH-4 system may cover Mt. Ararat several times between 1960 and 1971. However, most of the imagery appears to be cloud-covered and may be of little aid to Mr. Taylor. Please keep in mind that the KH-4 satellite system has not yet been declassified, although a proposal to do so is before the DCI.

2. We are unaware of any study concerning the "Ararat Anomaly" that Mr. Taylor mentions in his FOIA request.

3. Questions concerning this memorandum may be directed to [redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2002

1
[redacted]
Derivative of 50122
Declassify on: OADR
Derived From: [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

*Supposed Tuesday
(3:30) 8/27*

*File Room
24 Jul 92
JWS*

*Ret'D PS
late 24 Jul*

**JOHN E. HORTON
RAYMOND G. SMITH, ASSOCIATE**

**202-388-1577
FAX 202-388-7128**

**4801 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20016**

20 July 92

The Hon Duane P Andrews
Assistant Secretary of Defense, C³I
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E 172
Wash DC 20301

Dear Mr Andrews,

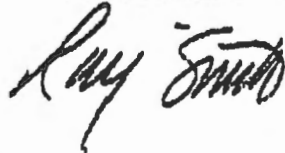
CBS and Sun International Pictures are producing a network special called "The Secret of Noah's Ark", scheduled for airing in September of this year. The special will be part of a series on biblical matters and is expected to reach about 35 million viewers.

The producers have gathered a number of indications that the U.S. intelligence services are in possession of pictorial evidence that the Ark, or parts of it, still exists; on p. 2 of their accompanying letter, they list some of these sources. Some, such as the late former astronaut James Irwin, do capture the imagination.

As the tradition of the Ark is honored by the Moslem, Christian, and Jewish faiths, there are many people throughout the world who would be interested in evidence concerning its existence or survival. Your assistance is requested in having such evidence now in the hands of our intelligence services released, where this can be done without compromising U.S. security.

Any assistance which you can render would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Raymond G Smith
Government Relations



APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2002

(3)

(11) ek
JWS

Available Evidence Referencing Intelligence Files

Although we have received numerous reports of such material being gathered and files being maintained by U.S. intelligence agencies, the following are representative examples:

- The late Astronaut Col. James Irwin said he personally saw the Air Force file on Mt. Ararat-Noah's Ark, but it is not known if he was allowed to thoroughly review its contents.
- There were numerous sightings by Air Force pilots during World War II. Some photographs were taken and turned over to Air Force superiors for processing.
- Gregor Schwinghammer, an Air Force pilot stationed in Turkey during the late 1950s, saw it while doing reconnaissance work. He described it as a "big rectangular, huge boxcar-like manmade structure."
- In 1974, Al Shappell was the photographer on an Air Force F-4 recon mission over Mt. Ararat to more closely examine the artifact allegedly noted on satellite photos. The film was turned over to the Air Force for analysis. Shappell described what he saw as "a dark foreign object two-thirds of the way up the mountain near a gorge. It was oblong and partially buried in the glacial ice."
- A former Air Force DC-3 pilot dropping freight in Eastern Turkey for the CIA in the early 1960s saw it along with several other pilots flying missions for the CIA. He says the CIA and the Air Force are well aware of the wooden barge on Mt. Ararat and pictures were probably turned over to these agencies.
- In 1974, retired Air Force Col. Walter T. Brown, Jr., was summoned to the CIA by Director Bill Colby and directed to disclose all his Ark knowledge, Ararat information, and Ark contacts to Colby's assistant Hovey Schue who was overseeing a special Mt. Ararat-Noah's Ark project.
- It is also known by people familiar with the capability of U.S. Defense photographic satellites and CIA radar-penetrating satellites that these satellites have confirmed the Ark on Mt. Ararat.

...more

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2002

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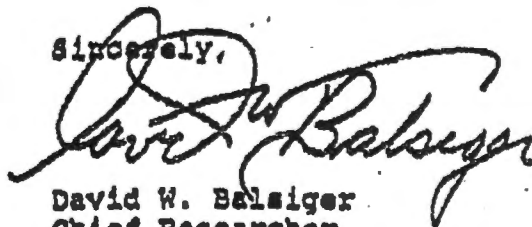
Cooperation Sought from Government Agencies

As we are making a positive TV Special and would portray any U.S. Government agency participation in a positive light, we are seeking the cooperation of any and all government intelligence-gathering agencies to let us do the following:

- (1) Open up their Mt. Ararat-Noah's Ark files to our review for further evidence that would help to establish that the Ark is still on Mt. Ararat. This could possibly be done through some type of Freedom of Information approach where sensitive information such as names could be deleted.
- (2) Allow Sun to use any old or current photographs taken of the Ark on Mt. Ararat by military or intelligence personnel. Both the Air Force and CIA should have several photos in their files.
- (3) Allow Sun to use CIA Defense Department high resolution aerial/satellite photos or radar-penetrating imagery to establish the exact position of the Ark on Mt. Ararat. These photos may visually show the Ark or the radar imagery is capable of showing where it is under the ice. The Russian ALMAZ and French SPOT satellites do not provide high enough resolution to find or identify the Ark on Ararat.

As our production must air on CBS in September, we must ask you to move quickly on our request to government agencies. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



David W. Balsiger
Chief Researcher
SUN INTERNATIONAL PICTURES, INC.
2365 Purdue Drive • Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 850-1106 FAX (714) 662-3952

DWB:kd

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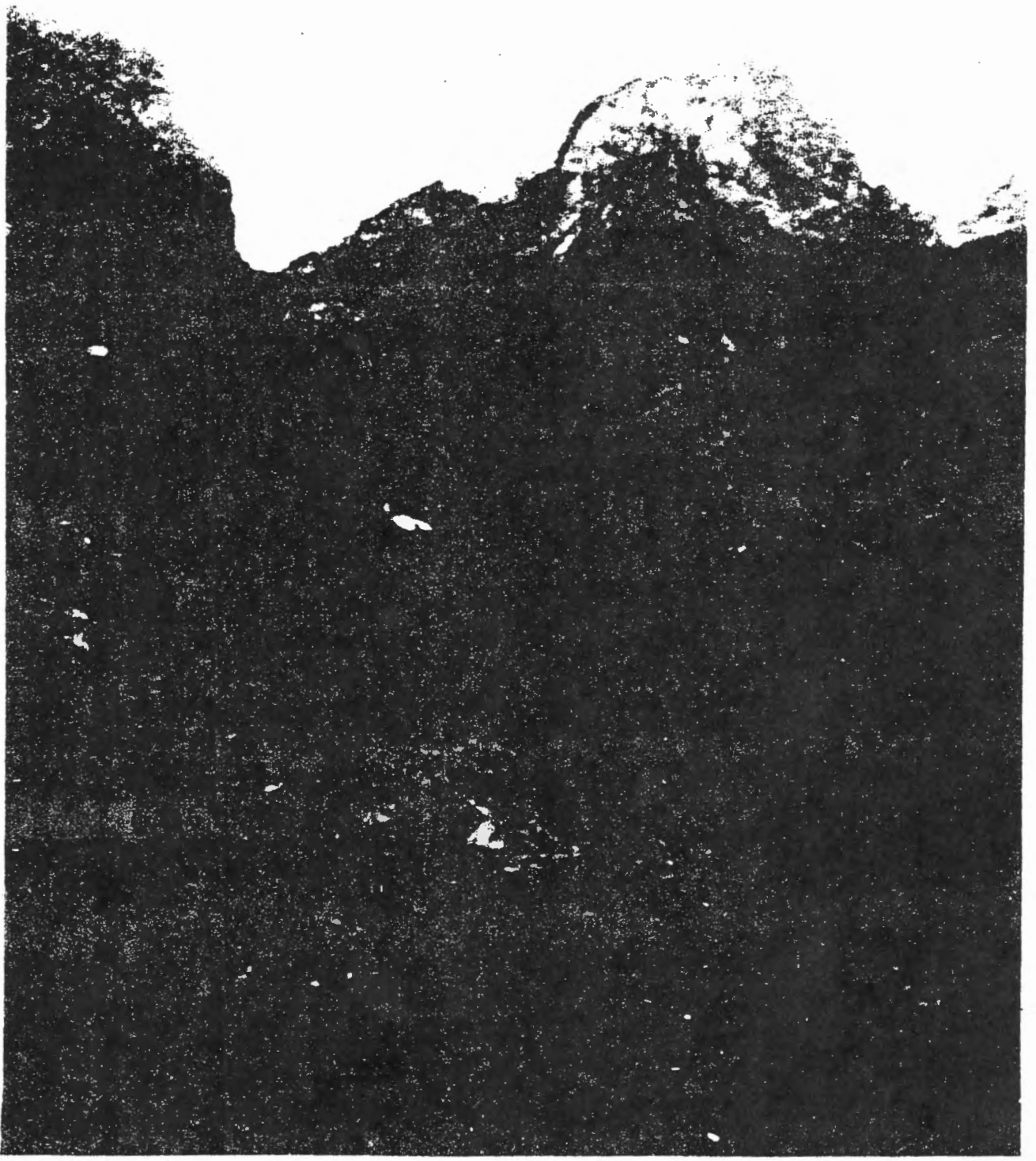
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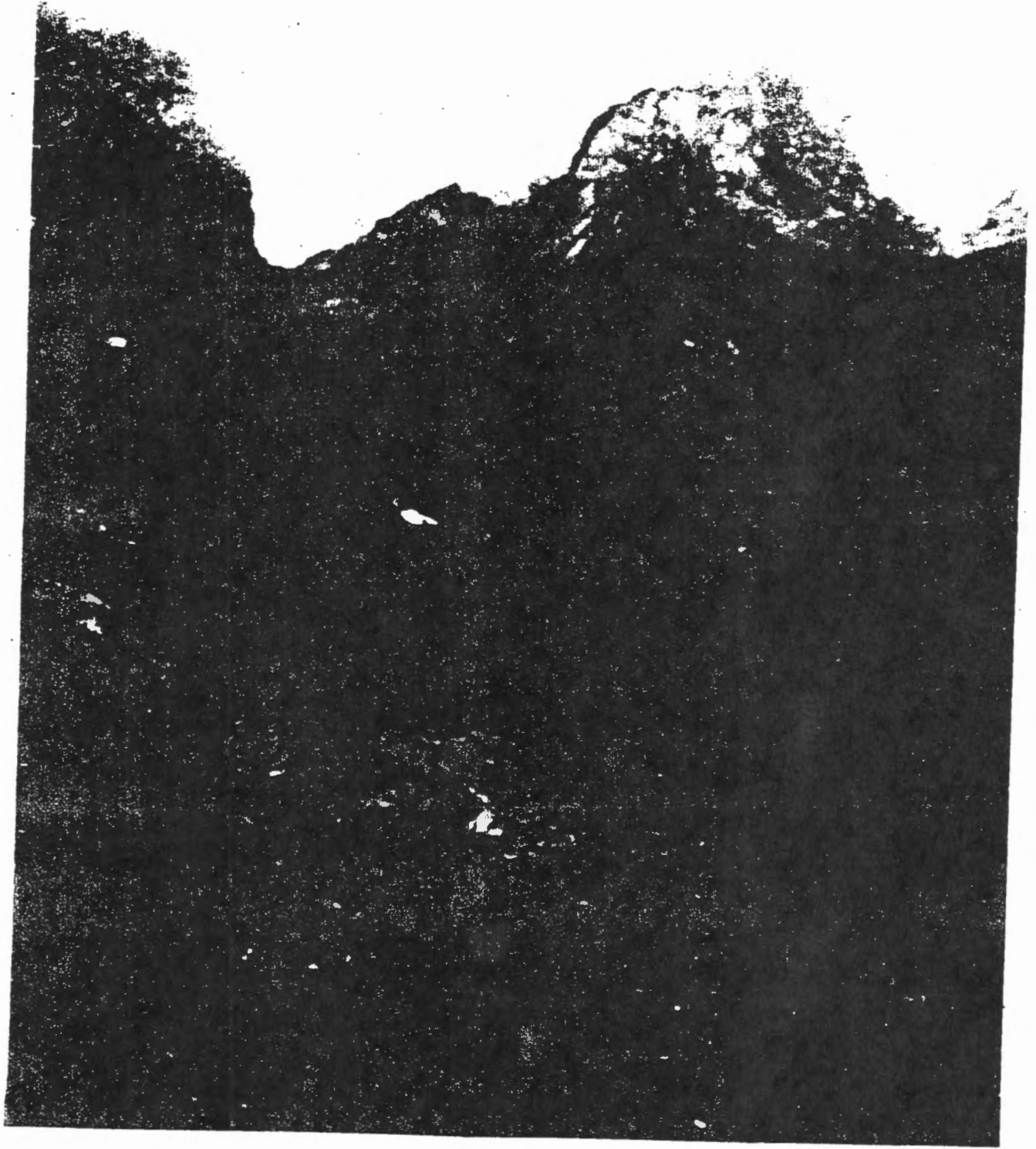
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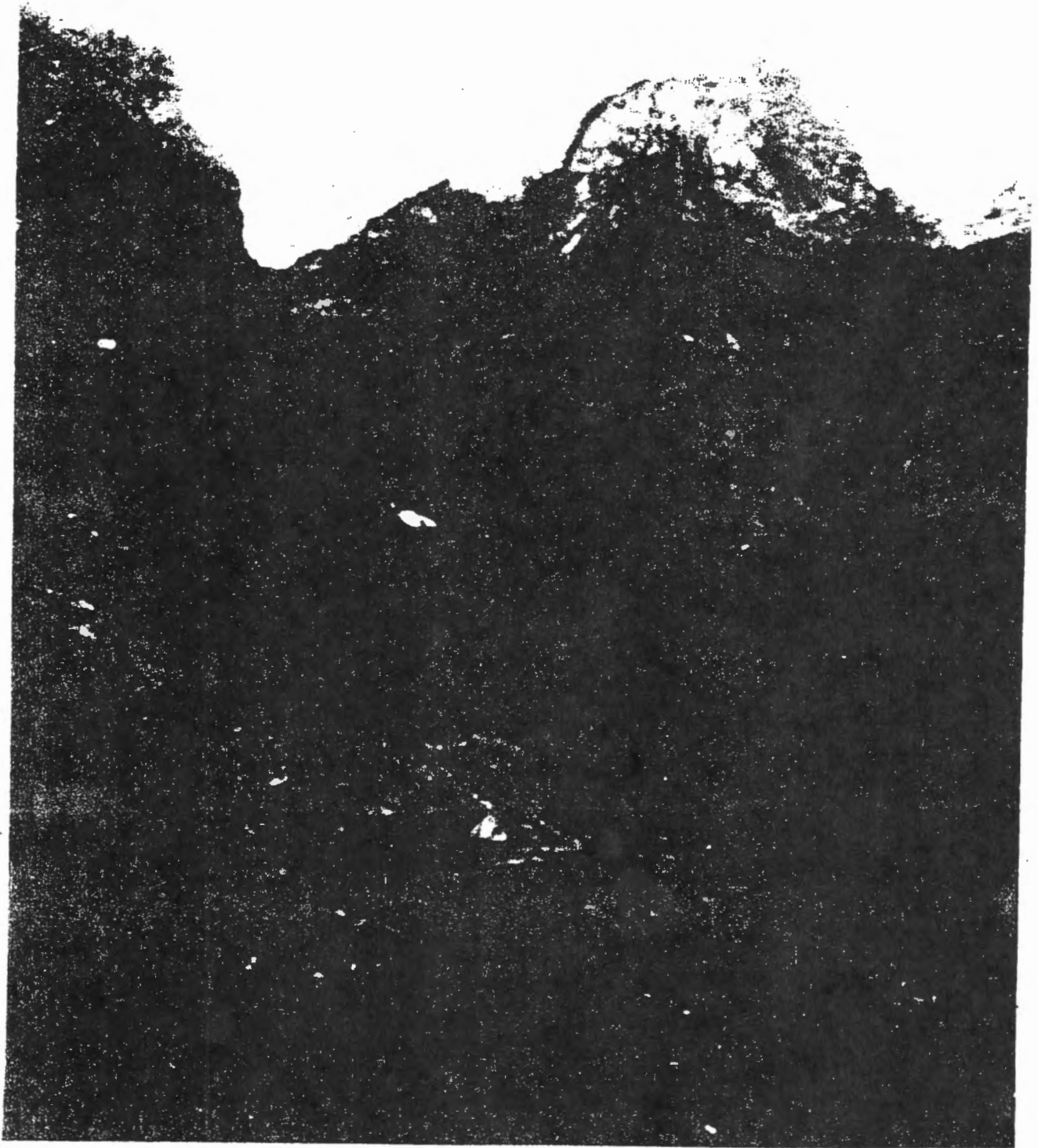


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Noah's Ark 1974 - 1982. On 13 May 1974, DCI Colby sent a letter to the DS&T, Sayre Stevens, asking if the Agency had any evidence of Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat. Mr. Colby said that Lieutenant Colonel Walter Brown of the US Air Force Academy had asked "whether it would be appropriate or possible to exploit satellite photography to examine the glacier systems there to see whether any evidence of the Ark could be found." On 21 May, the Center responded that no evidence of the Ark could be discerned on U-2 photography acquired on 10 September 1957 or on any satellite imagery available at the Center.

On 6 August 1974, Congressman Bob Wilson asked the Agency whether any aerial photos of Mt. Ararat could be released to a friend of his, Dr. John Morris, son of Dr. Henry M. Morris, the head of the Institution of Creation Research of San Diego, California. Mr. Hicks stated in a letter to the Agency legislative liaison staff that several U-2 photos dated 1957 were available but were still classified "Confidential." The younger Dr. Morris wrote to the Agency later requesting the photos. His request was denied by Angus Theurmer, the Agency's press spokesman who stated

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"We have looked into this matter in some detail and we regret that we are unable to provide any information."

In September/October 1974, Admiral Showers of the Intelligence Community Staff, in response to a query from Lieutenant Commander Lonnie McClung, asked about the availability of intelligence information concerning the location of Noah's Ark. He was told that a search had been made of aerial photography with negative results.

On 30 January 1975, Dr. John Morris again wrote Congressman Bob Wilson noting that aerial photos "were taken in August 1974, as a result of my request. They were not to be classified, but have been classified since and are not available." Congressman Wilson again ^{contacted} solicited the Agency with the request. On 27 February 1975, Mr. Hicks again denied the request. On 11 March 1975, Dr. Morris was notified that the photography of Mt. Ararat was classified and, therefore, could not be provided. ~~On 5 March 1975~~, an additional request made through Dr. Charles Willis of Fresno, California to Mr. Arthur C. Lundahl, retired Director NPIC ^{on 5 March 1975} was also denied on 31 March 1975.

On 3 April 1975, NPIC Section Chief [REDACTED] sent a memo to the Chief, IEG, detailing the efforts of Messrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who had searched unsuccessfully all available U-2 and satellite imagery for possible evidence of Noah's Ark. This search had been prompted by the visit to the Center, on 14 March 1975, of Captain Howard Schue of the IC Staff with a ground photo "showing a long range view of the purported Ark." The [REDACTED] Division of NPIC was tasked to determine if the Ark's features in the photo had been altered; tests failed to identify any manipulation. Attempts to compare the ground photo with satellite imagery for identification and location purposes also proved negative.

From 27 March to 5 April 1975, a French archeological explorer, Fernand Navarra was at Iverson Mall in Washington, D.C. publicizing his book Noah's Ark I Touched It. As part of the sales pitch for the book, there was a display which included a supposed wood fragment of the Ark.

Several NPIC analysts concerned with the Ark problem visited the display but found nothing that would help their search efforts.

On 10 April 1975, Colonel Paul Tanota and Captain Howard Schue, of the IC Staff visited NPIC to discuss Mt. Ararat and to see the August 1974 aerial photography of the mountain. At the request of Captain Schue, a print of Mt. Ararat showing the 13,000 and 14,000 foot elevations was provided.

On 5 July 1975 a book entitled ~~ARMED~~ The Ark of Ararat by Thomas Nelson was released. Mr. Nelson maintained that the CIA had photos of Mt. Ararat and that they had been analyzed in the search for the Ark.

On 12 October 1975, Tom Crotser from a group known as The Holy Ground Mission of Frankston, Texas showed a ground photo supposedly of the Ark taken during their 1974 expedition to Mt. Ararat.

Sometime in 1977, Bill Chaney Speed of Search Foundation, Inc. requested the aerial photos of Mt. Ararat. His request also was denied.

Senator Barry Goldwater wrote DCI Turner on 1 September 1978, "You may think this is a screwball request and it may be, but I would like to know if you can do anything about it." The letter went on to ask if satellite photography could be searched "to determine whether or not something in the way of an archeological find might be located near or on top of the Mount." Goldwater explained that a letter he had received had come "from a man in whom I have great confidence, who certainly is no nut, who knows Turkey rather well but who feels that there is reason to believe the Ark may be resting at or near the top of the mount. I assure that I will keep this at any classification you want it kept and if you desire me to go to the devil, I know the way."

DCI Turner replied "we have been requested on several occasions if we could determine whether

there was remains of the Ark on Mt. Ararat. We have, as a result, carefully reviewed the photography of the area but have not found any evidence of the Ark."

On 27 May 1981, [REDACTED] of the Center received a telephone call from Air Force Talent Control Officer, Major Ray Abel, requesting information on Noah's Ark. Major Abel said he had received a request from General Lew Allen, Air Force Chief of Staff, who, in turn, was answering a requirement from Congressman Bill Archer of Texas. Congressman Archer had indicated that some of his constituents from Houston, Texas were going on an expedition to Mt. Ararat and would like to have as much information as possible. [REDACTED] told Major Abel that NPIC had conducted a study of Mt. Ararat in the 1970s and had found no evidence of the Ark.

In February 1982, former Astronaut James B. Irwin of the High Flight Foundation, a Christian group in Colorado Springs, Colorado, called former NPIC official Dino A. Brugioni, at his home and asked about the aerial photos of Mount Ararat. Irwin was informed that no evidence of the Ark had ever been seen on aerial photography.

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NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH
OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WORKING PAPER

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Copy for: *Chief*

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NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Vol. IV No. 33

For Week Ending
24 August 1949

GREECE

Greeks Cautious On Albanian Question: Although the question of Albanian support for the Greek rebellion will assume new importance as the current offensive develops in the Grammos area, the Greek Government will probably avoid any rash action against Albania so long as Greece is preoccupied with major anti-guerrilla operations. The number of Greek guerrillas being harbored in Albania may now total more than 10,000 as the result of the recent withdrawal of some 5,000 rebels from the Vitsi sector, and new guerrilla attempts at large-scale border crossings or the delivery of artillery fire and counterattacks from Albanian soil may therefore inflame the already great Greek popular resentment at Albanian policy, as did certain reports during the Vitsi battle. Nevertheless, the Greek press has thus far largely skirted the inflammatory issue of old territorial claims against Albania; Greek officials are waiting to see whether the UNGA in its September session will make any move to control hostile frontier traffic; and the Greek Army itself is unlikely to make sizable forays into Albania unless it is provoked considerably more than it was during the recent Vitsi battle. The Greeks may still be tempted to take part in the overthrow of the relatively weak pro-Soviet regime in Albania if the development of the Tito-Soviet quarrel provides a suitable opportunity. Even so, Greece would still be concerned over the uncertainties of the Balkan situation and would remain basically distrustful of Tito. Thus, unless the Greeks feel that they can rely upon US-UK support for specific measures against Albania, they will, however reluctantly, maintain a cautious attitude--at least until they can better appraise the course of the Tito-Soviet quarrel and are more confident of their own progress in anti-guerrilla operations.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Kashmir Dispute: The UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) has announced abandonment of the proposed joint political talks between India and Pakistan on Kashmir. These talks, scheduled for 22 August, were designed to establish a truce--as distinct from the already effective cease-fire--preparatory to a plebiscite as agreed to by India and Pakistan in their acceptance of UNCIP's

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proposals of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949. UNCIP concluded, however, that the intransigent attitude of both governments regarding the proposed agenda foredoomed the talks to early failure.

In a last effort to obtain agreement, UNCIP will probably propose that the disputed questions affecting the truce be submitted to arbitration by Admiral Nimitz, Plebiscite Administrator designate. Pakistan has already indicated informally that it will readily agree to arbitration by Nimitz. India, on the other hand, will probably reject the arbitration proposal, notwithstanding the strong diplomatic support which the US and UK plan to give the proposal. The attitude of the Government of India (GOI) toward the Kashmir dispute has been uncompromising from the outset; moreover, the GOI has expressed reluctance to confer plenipotentiary powers even on its own representatives during UNCIP's mediation efforts. Prime Minister Nehru's own attitude, however, is believed to be the controlling factor in India's position, and his impetuosity might result in a complete reversal of his previous attitude. There are indications of increasing concern on his part over evidence reaching him that the Kashmir dispute is damaging India's reputation and is seriously harming important external and internal interests of India. The fact that the recently announced intention of the US and the UK to support India's candidacy for the Security Council will momentarily appease Indian vanity may also facilitate a shift in his attitude whereby India would make the necessary concessions on the Kashmir matter. If no such reversal takes place, UNCIP can only refer the dispute back to the Security Council for further consideration.

NOTED IN BRIEF

Although Zaim's admiration for Turkish modernization and westernization aroused considerable resentment among Syrian nationalists, Syria's new leaders have expressed a desire to retain Turkey's friendship and even to strengthen the ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, Turkey seems to have adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the new regime pending definite indications that Syria's friendship is more than skin-deep; and the Turkish Government has authorized the general commanding the Turkish mission to the Syrian Army to use his own judgement as to whether the mission should be continued.

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The Turkish Government is trying to eliminate the bite from behind the bark of the opposition Democratic Party by remedying two conditions which have provided most of the ammunition for the Democratic attacks. It is reported that a tentative electoral reform bill has been sent to a committee of scholars for study and that it will be released to the press. Also, industrialists have been requested to state their problems so that the government can set up machinery for the investment of private capital in Turkish economic enterprises. Significantly, however, none of the currently state-owned factories will be turned over to private enterprise.

* * *

Since Turkish official sanction to look for Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat has been given to Western scientists, TASS (official Soviet News Agency) has announced that a Soviet scientist has just finished six years of excavation on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Ararat. TASS reports that evidence has been found that Stone Age men lived in this area presumably long before Noah's Ark was supposed to have landed on the mountain top. This report brings up the questions of who's spying on whom, how scientific can you get, and are the Soviets about to claim another "first" for the Communist regime.

* * *

The Army remains the power behind the scene in Syria despite the ostensible return of the government to civilian politicians. The interim Cabinet is weak and disunited. Unless it caters to the Army--which has taken over the directorship of the civilian police, the assistant Directorship of Posts and Telegraphs, and several minor posts, as well as retaining the Ministry of Defense--it may easily find its position untenable. Hinnawi, perpetrator of the latest coup, is now Commander in Chief.

* * *

A determined attempt to reinstitute the flow of crude oil through the Kirkuk-Haifa pipeline is about to be made. A tanker from the Western Hemisphere is now on its way to Haifa, carrying oil with which to start up the refinery there, while three tankers carrying Persian Gulf oil are on their way to the Suez Canal.

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The theory is that with the refinery already in operation, the Egyptian Government can be persuaded, with British and French assistance, to relax its ban on shipments to Israel and permit the tankers to pass through the canal, and that Iraq, which is in any case in serious need of its former oil royalties, would then find it politically easier to lift its ban on the flow of oil through the pipeline from Kirkuk to Haifa. The success of the plan is questionable. Although Egypt has recently relaxed to some extent its restrictions on shipments to Israel through the Suez Canal, there is some doubt whether one tanker load of oil from the Western Hemisphere will prove sufficient economic blackmail to persuade Egypt to permit the Persian Gulf tankers to transit the canal. Even if Egypt does relent, the problem of the Iraqi pipeline is so interwoven with the other problems of peace between Israel and the Arab states that the projected "pump-priming" operation may have to continue for some months before Iraq gives way.

* * *

Negotiations for an International Bank loan to Iraq for flood control and irrigation projects are expected to be completed by January. The amount under consideration is 6.4 million dollars plus 5.8 million pounds sterling, but this sum may be altered on the basis of negotiations in London between Prime Minister Nuri Said and the British Foreign Office for a loan to cover current budget deficits. In any case the loan will not be a panacea for Iraq's present and future financial difficulties.

* * *

Khashaba Pasha's resignation as Egyptian Minister of Justice, allegedly over a "trifle," is regarded by many as fortunate. Khashaba Pasha's successor is Aly Allouba Bey, now Minister of State, a liberal, practical man who is expected to be an improvement over the procrastinating Khashaba. The change will probably not affect the balance of power in the Cabinet, since both men are members of the Liberal Party.

* * *

The Sheikh of Qatar is reported to have abdicated in favor of his son Ali Abdullah al Thani, possibly to escape the ennui of dealing with the constant procession of oil prospectors trekking across his territory.

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A spate of Iranian notables will descend upon Washington during the next few months. In addition to the Shah, who is expected to visit Washington in November, three other Iranians--Foreign Minister Hekmat, Ebtehaj, the director of the National Bank, and Allahyar Saleh, former Minister of Finance--plan to come here shortly. Each will probably take a hand in pressing for increased economic or military aid from the US.

* * *

The question of US military aid for Iran continues to evoke unfavorable comment in the Iranian press. One of the leading dailies has branded the proposed MAP aid as "insulting" and appealed to "an old friend for more favorable attention." Another journal has demanded that the aid be refused, pointing out that Iran's neutrality was worth much more.

* * *

Soviet submarines have been observed by Caspian Sea fishermen on several occasions during the past three months. The fishermen's reports were notable for the accuracy with which the craft were described.

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Washington, D.C. 20505

CHRONO

OLL 84-0779/1

2 MAR 1984

The Honorable John C. Danforth
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Danforth:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of
 22 February and the inquiry from your constituent,

[Redacted]

STAT

Please assure your constituent that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) does not possess any photographs which contain evidence of the location of Noah's Ark. I have checked with knowledgeable individuals concerning the item referenced in the Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Historical Series) Volume XII, page 286, and I have been advised that the discussion did not concern anything relating to Noah's Ark, but rather to Soviet military activity.

In addition to the above, I have also learned that several years ago an individual connected with producing a film concerning Noah's Ark sued the CIA for the same type of information. Upon order of the court, photographs were produced for review by the court, which then dismissed the suit.

Sincerely,

/s/ Clair E. George

Clair E. George
 Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

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LD/OLL: [Redacted] (1 March 1984)

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