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NPIC/TDS/D-750-67
22 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Development Staff, TDS
THROUGH : Chief, Support Systems Branch, DS/TDS
SUBJECT : Evaluation of Special Drying Techniques - Microwave
and Vacuum Drying.

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1. On 8 March 1967 a call was made to Westover AFB. Contact was made with [redacted] Discussion included all commercial organizations the Air Force had contacted in relation to microwave and vacuum drying.

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a. [redacted] indicated that [redacted] of Wright-Patterson AFB would be aware of the work in microwave drying by this [redacted] firm and by the [redacted]

b. [redacted] This corporation built a 35mm microwave dryer for the movie industry. They lack interest in continuing a development program for wider photographic materials.

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c. [redacted] Microwave Dryer Proposal [redacted] indicated that this particular concept held little promise.

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d. [redacted] informed us that [redacted] had performed some experimental tests in drying photographic materials in microwave waveguides designed for other purposes. He also gave us a contact [redacted] and also indicated that [redacted] had conducted vacuum drying experiments.

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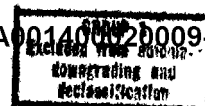
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2. 13 March 1967 [redacted] was contacted. A discussion was held on microwave drying and what photographic applications had been considered. [redacted] indicated that preliminary experiments in microwave drying of films had been performed but that this area of work had been transferred to another department headed by [redacted] He indicated that [redacted] would have knowledge of work performed with vacuum drying.

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3. On 14 March 1967 [redacted] was contacted. [redacted] was aware of the previous experiments performed by [redacted] in utilizing microwaves for drying photographic films; although work had not continued in this area when the transfer of this responsibility occurred. [redacted] was asked if any work is being performed in vacuum drying. He indicated that [redacted] was involved in a combination of microwave and vacuum drying but not in the photographic area. [redacted] knowledge of drying photographic materials is limited.

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4. On 14 March 1967 [redacted] of Wright-Patterson AFB was contacted. [redacted] and his department are involved in monitoring the contracts for Westover in microwaves and vacuum drying.

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a. An investigation contract in vacuum drying is being conducted for Wright-Patterson AFB by [redacted] in Calif. Vacuum chambers used in food processing are being utilized in the drying experiments of photographic films. Separate experiments are being conducted to maintain a vacuum in an unheated chamber where film is moved in and out of a gate.

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b. The best information on microwave drying equipment or breadboards [redacted] could be obtained from [redacted] in [redacted]

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5. On 14 March 1967 [redacted] (Limited) was contacted. [redacted] explained that they have built a 9 1/2" microwave film dryer breadboard prototype that utilizes 1800 watts of power and runs at about four feet per minute. This can be demonstrated at any time. In [redacted] there is a dryer for paper prints using microwave techniques and runs at two feet per minute. Neither the film nor paper dryer have been exposed to color materials.

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6. As the only prototype equipment utilizing microwave techniques, paralleling our requirements, is in [redacted] would be desirable to determine the application of these techniques to our own requirements within NPIC. Travel orders are being prepared for this trip.

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7. An attempt was made to contact [redacted] of Westover AFB. [redacted] is on TDY for several weeks. He will be contacted when he returns.

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