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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

*Complete document
filed in PFIAB*

29 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
(National Security Affairs)

SUBJECT : Reports of Use of Laser Weapons by the
Soviets Against the Chinese

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REFERENCE : PFIAB Memorandum to Secretary Kissinger,
dated 3 September 1974 -

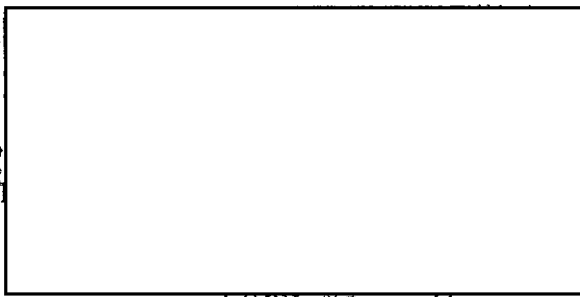
1. Per Admiral Anderson's request, we have prepared the attached analysis of the twelve reports we have received since 1971 alleging that the Soviets used lasers in a weapons-related role against the Chinese during the Sino-Soviet border clashes in 1969. As you will see, this analysis makes us very skeptical about the accuracy of these reports.

2. Should you wish to pursue this topic in private discussions with Chinese officials during your next trip to the People's Republic, you could simply state that we have had a few low level reports claiming that the Soviets used lasers against PRC forces during the border incidents of the late 1960s and ask whether these allegations have any basis in fact. Should the Chinese respond affirmatively and seem willing to discuss the subject, answers to questions along the following lines would be very helpful:

a. How were the lasers used -- e.g., to guide missiles or bombs, to blind personnel, to inflict burns, to ignite vehicles or other targets?

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b. What actual effects did the laser beams have?

c. If lasers were used (which we doubt), we would welcome any obtainable information on what they or their supporting equipment looked like, their size, their mobility and the color of the laser light.

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby
Director

Attachment

[Redacted Box]

Copy No. 1

Copy No. 2 - Admiral Anderson w/att

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	<i>to 4</i> The Director	11/1	<i>see</i> <i>b/6</i>
2			
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
SUBJECT: The Soviet Laser Rumors			
<p>The attached was prepared primarily to keep Admiral Anderson happy and he will, of course, be sent a copy. It has been thoroughly scrubbed by all concerned components within the Agency and reflects a unanimous point of view.</p>			
<p>cc: DDCI DDI DDS&T D/OSR D/OSI D/DCI/IC D/OWI</p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
George A. Carver, Jr. D/NIO			29Oct74