

~~TOP SECRET~~

TALENT-KEYHOLE/ **BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEMS  
Jointly

~~1ST~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

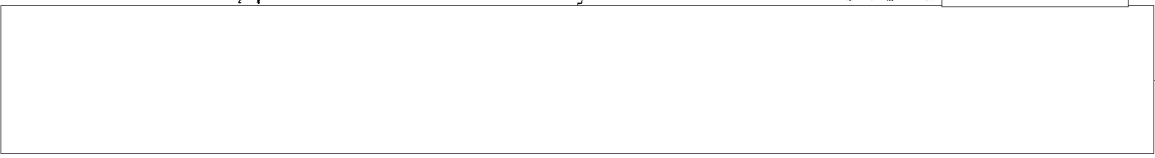
20 July 1971

Dear John:

In regard to your July 2, 1971 memorandum "Clearances for USAFE Commander and Selected Staff Officers," BYE-78230-71, perhaps the most beneficial evaluation I can provide is a synopsis of the events leading up to the request, and an explanation as to what we are attempting to do.

During his European trip, Dr. McLucas had met with key USAFE and USEUCOM personnel to discuss overall intelligence capability and utilization. During these discussions, it appeared to Dr. McLucas that the SIGINT satellite collectors were not fully understood, and there was considerable apprehension over reductions in peripheral collection capability that overhead systems could not replace.

Upon his return to the U.S., Dr. McLucas asked Harry Davis to look into the situation, and to recommend a proposed course of action. Harry then made an on-site survey and has recommended that certain key personnel be extensively briefed on the SIGINT satellite collection platforms and visit select ground stations and contractor facilities. In addition to the NRO briefings, Harry suggested the group visit SAC to observe the PACER operations and also receive a briefing on HAVE LEMON, a defense suppression effort by AFSC which uses a [redacted]



The current plan is to invite key USAFE and USEUCOM personnel to the Pentagon for in-depth briefings on select

EARPOP

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN** /TALENT-KEYHOLE  
CONTROL SYSTEMS Jointly

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION  
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

WORKING COPY  
BYE-78230-71  
**WORKING COPY**

~~TOP SECRET~~

TALENT-KEYHOLE/

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
 CONTROL SYSTEM S  
 Jointly

SIGINT systems, and possible outgrowths of these systems, then have them tour facilities such as the [redacted], [redacted], LMSC, SAC Headquarters and Headquarters AFSC. Upon return to Washington there would be an evaluation and debriefing as to whether or not the satellite systems are of direct value to their needs. It is also intended to determine over the next few months whether a [redacted] system," namely a [redacted] based originally on surplus U-2 aircraft, but eventually in a high altitude drone (COMPASS COPE) may not better serve USAFE's and EUCOM's needs than will TEREK. TEREK is an ELINT system proposed for installation in the RF-4. The [redacted] system would yield greater accuracy, cover deep into the enemy interior (perhaps 300 miles), have long endurance (8-10 hours versus one hour in the RF-4) and have much lower sortie costs. The possibility of HF direction finders from the same platform is also a subject of interest which we will investigate. Dr. McLucas has asked NSA to participate in the briefings and any follow-on program that results.

In regard to security, we are attempting to meet all possible USER needs at the TK level. In the past, the USER community has appeared to be apprehensive concerning the belief that they cannot get the "whole story" at the TK level. Since at least EARPOP access will be required in addition to SI/TK for on-site visits, we would propose to brief the individuals EARPOP upon initial arrival in Washington. After the final evaluation, all personnel would be debriefed EARPOP, and the specific information that was EARPOP-unique would be explained, as would the system capability and data available at the TK level. In this way they would know precisely the extent of information in the TK system, and more important be able to utilize it at the Command level within the existing security structure.

The only BYEMAN clearance action required at this time would be a re-certification of clearability for those personnel to visit Washington and the on-site facilities. Upon arrival the NRO would sponsor the EARPOP access as required. If Lt Col Douglas J. Pennington is to attend, he would require TK access.

EARPOP

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**/TALENT-KEYHOLE  
 CONTROL SYSTEM S Jointly

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING  
 DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOCS NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 COPY \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES  
 PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

TALENT-KEYHOLE/

BYEMAN  
CONTROL SYSTEMS  
Jointly

I regard this a significant opportunity (1) to enhance the ability of the NRO to serve the USER community and (2) to introduce the European Intelligence Community to other options than TEREK, TEOSS and TERDES, i.e., to options which may be better suited to their needs and be less expensive. With your cooperation and participation we may be able to promote a better utilization of our National systems capability in the tactical requirement areas, help to better establish both our capabilities and limitations and have the USER community build systems better than now projected which interface closely with National systems.

*David D. Eradburn*  
DAVID D. ERADBURN  
Colonel, USAF  
Director

cc:



EARPOP

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**/TALENT-KEYHOLE  
CONTROL SYSTEMS Jointly

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO \_\_\_\_\_  
COPY \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES  
PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES