

~~TOP SECRET~~  
CORONA/GAMBIT

Functions: NRO

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USIB-D-41.15/36  
(COMOR-D-48/72)  
21 May 1964  
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Importance of Satellite Reconnaissance Coverage for  
Timely Production of National Intelligence Estimates

REFERENCES : a. USIB-D-41.15/34 (COMOR-D-48/68)  
4 May 1964, Limited Distribution  
b. Addendum to USIB-D-41.15/34 (COMOR-  
D-48/68), 8 May 1964, Limited Distribution

1. In a restricted session at the 20 May United States Intelligence Board (USIB) meeting, the Chairman read to the Board a letter from General Carroll regarding the request by the Secretary of Defense that revised NIE 11-8 and NIE 11-3 be available on 1 October (copy attached).

2. Mr. McCone thought that this proposed schedule was quite satisfactory but pointed out the problem of producing these estimates by the dates requested in view of the recent failures of CORONA-J satellite vehicles. He noted that, while it had been planned to launch two J's in May and two in June, the next J scheduled was for launch 28 May.

3. The Chairman said that he wished to emphasize to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) the impossibility of proceeding with the production of these important estimates without results of further CORONA-J coverage. Mr. McCone stated that, unless the NRO organization can come closer to meeting USIB requirements for the intelligence inventory, something would have to be done about the NRO itself. He said that he would have to respond to Secretary McNamara that, if NRO failed to obtain the necessary satellite photographic coverage in time, USIB would be unable to meet the requested NIE schedules.

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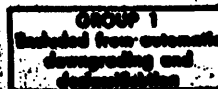
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4. The Chairman asked the DD/NRO to check with Dr. McMillan as to when he would let the Board know the reasons for the recent failures and what can be done to correct them. Mr. McCone stressed that, while the GAMBITS were important from an intelligence viewpoint, J search coverage was essential. He again noted that, as reported in Reference b., his discussions with the Secretary of Defense resulted in an agreement that there should be two J's per month, but a month is going by without such coverage.

5. Mr. Kiefer explained that the reason for the delay was the desire by NRO to be sure that everything possible had been done to correct the causes of recent failures. The DD/NRO said that he fully appreciated the concern of USIB as expressed by the Chairman:

6. Admiral Taylor commented that, while he appreciated the need of the Secretary of Defense for the requested NIE's by 1 October, there was also increased difficulty in obtaining the necessary information regarding the Soviet submarine building program in time for these estimates. He cautioned that it might be necessary to issue a memorandum to holders after the estimates had been produced if the information on the submarine building program could not be obtained in time.

  
JAMES S. LAY, JR.  
Executive Secretary

Attachment

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Attachment  
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21 May 1964  
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Washington 25, D. C.

S-173/AP-2B

11 May 1964

Honorable John A. McCone  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. McCone:

The Secretary of Defense has requested that revised NIE's on "Soviet Capabilities Thru 1970 for Strategic Attack" and "Soviet Bloc Air and Missile Defense Capabilities Thru 1970" be available on 1 October.

The latest schedule of the Board of National Estimates which I have received indicates that NIE 11-8 is scheduled for mid-September 1964 and that NIE 11-3 is scheduled for 1 July 1964. It appears then that there will be no scheduling problem in satisfying Mr. McNamara's requirements with the possible exception that a Memorandum to Holders of NIE 11-3 may be in order for USIB consideration in late September.

This request is passed to you for your information in connection with scheduling priorities. If any difficulty arises which would appear to preclude fulfillment of this request, I would appreciate being advised by the Board of National Estimates.

Sincerely,

/s/

JOSEPH F. CARROLL  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Director

Downgraded at 3 year intervals;  
Declassified after 12 years.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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