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OCT 18 1966

MEMORANDUM TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MOL PROGRAM

SUBJECT: DOD Participation in NASA Earth Sensing Programs

Attached is a recent memorandum, with attachments, issued by the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, which I consider to be important, fundamental policy.

Please insure that MOL Systems Office personnel are informed of the provisions of this policy, consistent with security considerations.

HARRY L. EVANS
Major General, USAF
Vice Director, MOL Program

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a/s

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~~TOP SECRET~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

October 11, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF, USAF

SUBJECT: DOD Participation in NASA Earth Sensing Programs

We have recently reviewed and coordinated on a proposed NASA program to develop and operate a Multiband Synoptic Photographic Experiment (also known as the Multispectral Experiment). Review of the proposed NASA program was carried out in consultation with DDR&E and was conducted under policies established by Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, "DOD Needs for Earth Sensing from Satellites," dated August 30, 1965.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of our position on the Multispectral Experiment, and to request that you direct action to insure that DOD elements and personnel responsible to you are informed of the governing policies. The DOD position on this program as stated in my reply to NASA (Attachment 1) was specifically approved by Mr. Vance with respect to these policies and related questions, and is summarized as follows:

(1) DOD personnel will not make oral or written statements implying current or intended DOD endorsement of, direct participation in, or co-sponsorship of NASA satellite programs such as the Multispectral Experiment which can be claimed to have reconnaissance implications. The established ESSA/NASA meteorological satellite programs are excepted, so long as DOD involvement is limited to meteorological matters. DOD support of NASA not peculiar to an earth sensing mission, such as launch, range, and tracking station services, is not precluded.

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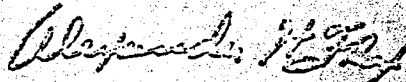
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(2) The National Reconnaissance Office has the sole responsibility for all DOD activities in satellite reconnaissance, and no open acknowledgment of such activity, either current or planned, is authorized.

(3) DOD agencies and personnel will not be authorized to participate in open NASA space experiments involving optical sensors.

(4) DOD agencies and personnel will be authorized to participate in and provide logistical and technical support to NASA aircraft-borne earth sensing programs in accordance with approved DOD procedures and DOD/NASA agreements, but such participation shall not extend to NASA satellite programs which may follow, and special care must be taken to insure that DOD is not associated with such follow-ons to aircraft programs in any public announcements.

It is essential that these policies be disseminated promptly to the many DOD agencies having interests in earth sensing programs. To assist you in releasing this information outside the BYEMAN system, I have attached a set of guidelines having TOP SECRET classification.



Alexander H. Flax

Attachments

cc: Dr. Foster
Lt. Gen. Carroll
Secretary Sylvester

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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

September 13, 1966

Dear Bob:

This is in response to your letter of June 23, 1966, regarding NASA's proposed Multispectral Photographic Experiment.

In accordance with the existing DOD/CIA-NASA agreement and the supplement thereto, this Experiment does not involve sensors of reconnaissance quality and I see no objection from the standpoint of the NRO to NASA proceeding with it as described in the attachment to your letter.

Arrangements for the actual conduct of the Experiment (particularly with regard to any orbits involving overflight of denied areas) as well as the exploitation of the camera products are, of course, to be worked out in accordance with Recommendation No. 1 of the NSAM 153 Ad Hoc Committee July 11, 1966 Report.

However, since the question of DOD participation in the Multispectral Experiment has implications extending beyond the NRO to the Department of Defense at large, I have discussed the question with the appropriate officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

While there is, of course, intense DOD interest in scientific advances in such fields as geography, oceanography, and the environmental sciences generally, we believe that new satellite-borne sensor systems are neither the only way nor necessarily the best way to collect much of the pertinent data. When weighed against possible international sensitivity, the benefits which could accrue are not sufficient to warrant

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open participation by scientifically-oriented agencies of the DOD in activities which can be claimed to have reconnaissance implications. With respect to the important military applications of satellite reconnaissance, the NRO has the sole responsibility for all DOD activities in this field and no open acknowledgment of such activity, either current or planned, is authorized.

Our studies have shown that the particular military advantages of satellite reconnaissance arise from its utility over foreign territories denied to aircraft overflight by heavy defenses or a political inhibition. Otherwise most military reconnaissance is best performed from aircraft. This does not involve high quality sensors and DOD aircraft sensor activity is not limited to the NRO. We are, therefore, interested in the aircraft-borne sensor experiments which NASA plans to conduct and appropriate DOD agencies will be authorized to participate and to provide logistical and technical support in accordance with approved DOD procedures and DOD/NASA agreements if that is appropriate. However, DOD agencies and personnel will not be authorized to participate in open NASA space experiments with optical sensors. This is, of course, not intended to preclude DOD support not peculiar to the earth sensing program such as launch, range, and tracking station services.

In light of the above, we request that you delete from the Multispectral Experiment brochures any reference to or connotation of DOD endorsement, direct participation, or co-sponsorship (i.e., letters such as those included from the U. S. Oceanographic Office, the Office of Naval Research, the Army Cold Regions Research Laboratory, etc.).

Sincerely,

Alexander E. Flax

Mr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr.
Deputy Administrator
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Washington, D. C.

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GUIDELINES FOR DOD PARTICIPATION
IN
NASA EARTH SENSING PROGRAMS

1. POLICY

The Deputy Secretary of Defense has directed all agencies of the DOD to deal exclusively with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (R&D) on matters concerning satellite-borne image forming earth sensors. Direct contacts with the NASA, or statements, either oral or written, to persons outside the DOD which could be interpreted as indicating endorsement or co-sponsorship of, or participation in, NASA programs involving such sensors, are specifically prohibited. The established ESSA/NASA meteorological satellite programs, TIROS, NIMBUS, TOSS and NOMSS, are excepted from this prohibition.

2. EXPLANATION

International relations of the United States and previous public statements by this Government require that no action be taken by any member of the Department of Defense which would support in any way a claim that NASA satellite programs are directly supporting military objectives. Further, the

Attachment 2

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Department of Defense must examine any requests made of other Government agencies to insure that they cannot be more economically met within existing and planned DOD resources.

Much of the data desired by DOD agencies from NASA can be obtained more rapidly, at less cost, and with higher accuracy by using existing DOD aircraft as sensor platforms. All agencies are urged to exploit this resource to meet valid requirements.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

A. DOD agencies and personnel should not

a. Levy requirements on NASA for data, either raw or processed, which are to be obtained from satellite-borne image forming earth sensors, or

b. Indicate in any way, actual or intended DOD participation in, or co-sponsorship of, or endorsement of NASA satellite programs employing image forming earth sensors (NSSA/NASA meteorological satellite programs are excepted).

B. DOD agencies should submit validated requirements for data to be obtained from satellite-borne earth sensors directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (R&D).

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C. DOD personnel may attend technical meetings at which plans or results of NASA satellite activities are discussed provided paragraph 3A, above, is not violated.

D. DOD agencies and personnel may participate in and provide logistical and technical support to NASA aircraft-borne earth sensing programs in accordance with approved DOD procedures and DOD/NASA agreements.

E. DOD support not peculiar to the earth sensing mission such as launch, range, and tracking services may be provided to NASA satellite earth sensing programs in accordance with approved DOD procedures and DOD/NASA agreements.

F. When NASA requests participation of a DOD agency or individual in a technical consulting or technical support capacity relative to the satellite earth sensing program, such request should be forwarded directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (R&D) for guidance as to the appropriate response and approval.

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