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

THE NRO STAFF

18 July 1977

Dr. Mark has seen

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. MARK

[REDACTED] have folded some specific comments on your draft into [REDACTED] paper. However, there is one other general observation I would like to make.

I disagree that maintaining four (or 3, 2, 1) separate space programs constitutes U.S. space policy. I consider that to be a matter of domestic management policy. Note that I assume space policy in this context to be a component of foreign policy (see the 18 points).

Ideally, we would have a comprehensive space policy, derived from politico-military policy goals and national objectives. The management structure of our space programs (4, 3, 2, or 1) would then be required to be consistent with the overall space policy. This structure would, of course, also reflect domestic policy considerations--politics, bureaucraties, economics, regionalism; but those are not part of space policy as discussed here (I claim).

A less ideal situation would be one in which we lacked an explicit space policy, yet still had an implicit space policy, derived through coherence among the management arrangements (4, 3, 2, or 1 programs), the actual projects and operations conducted under these arrangements, and domestic policy.

Both of the above situations represent a degree of success in maintaining a space (foreign) policy. Still further from the ideal would be a variety of projects and operations conducted without regard to foreign policy, under those management arrangements cited, and implying confusion rather than coherence in policy.

To make explicit my view, I construct this table, arguing that some of the items you list as without policy content, do reflect basic policy issues.

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MANAGEMENT PROBLEM

FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION

Military vs Civil in IR Astronomy

How much security will we forego in order not to anger foreign governments and scientific communities?

Direct Broadcast Satellites

What will nations do if we mount a major propaganda campaign against them? Should our policy allow DBS, but proscribe propaganda broadcasts?

Commercial Use of Satellite Data

Should we give  photos to the domestic wheat crop analysts and let them use that data in manipulating the world market?



WILLIAM L. SHIELDS, ~~MAJ~~
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

