

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEM

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

THE NRO STAFF

March 10, 1974

NOTE FOR GENERAL KULPA

SUBJECT: Briefing for Dr. Currie

Attached is an M/R of the General Penney briefing along with a copy of the view graphs. The session went very well and might be used as a model for your session with Dr. Currie. You will note that I took 25 minutes to give the briefing itself. This was partly due to the need to structure the present environment and to explain the limits of decompartmentation. This detail might not be needed with Dr. Currie.

Also attached are prepared questions and answers which AF/RDS is planning to present to Dr. Currie on Wednesday morning.

SS-5 will be happy to backstop you in the session with Dr. Currie.



HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF

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What is the relationship between the NASA TORS and Air Force and Navy satellite programs?

The NASA tracking and data relay satellite program is designed to support the unique NASA requirements of data relay for the Shuttle, Spacelab, and automated spacecraft. These data relay requirements include reception of telemetry, ^{voice}, and video from mission spacecraft and transmission of commands and voice to mission spacecraft at low and medium data rates (250 KBS to 50 MBS). The system will supplement the NASA ground network by providing data directly to large ground terminals located in the continental United States. It will be capable of supporting earth orbiting spacecraft ^{below} between 5000KM. It can not support synchronous missions, deep space missions or launch operations. It is not planned to be survivable, nor will it be anti-jam protected ^{and not} nor have secure data links. These latter requirements are fundamental and unique to most Air Force and Navy satellite programs. Because of these limitations, coupled with the inability to service synchronous missions, there is little utility to Air Force and Navy programs.

How do you coordinate between DOD & NASA on the broad area of data relay?

There has been a continuing close coordination between the DOD and NASA in the area of data relay since 1970. This coordination ranges from frequent and continuing contact of the working levels up through formal participation in the Unmanned Spacecraft Panel of the Aeronautics and Astronautics Coordinating Board (AACB). This coordination includes exchange of technology data as well as review of systems having mutual interest and advanced planning concepts. The prime goals of this coordination activity are to provide a common ground for the exchange of information and to assure coordinated efforts between the DOD and NASA in the area of technology and systems for data relay.