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WE UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS OVER THE PRESENCE OF A SOVIET AGI IN THE WTR VICINITY AND THE NEED TO ASSURE THAT PRUDENT PRACTICES ARE FOLLOWED FOR NRO LAUNCH ACTIVITIES.

AN ASSESSMENT FURNISHED BY NAVAL OCEAN SURVEILLANCE SOURCES INDICATED THAT APPEARANCE OF AN AGI AT THIS TIME FOLLOWS PAST SOVIET PRACTICE FOR U.S. SURVEILLANCE. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT THE AGI PELENG IS STEAMING NORTHWARD AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ON A ROUTE AWAY FROM THE WTR AREA. THE NAVY MONITORS THE PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PELENG TWICE DAILY BY AIRCRAFT BUT DOES NOT HAVE PLANS FOR INCREASED SURVEILLANCE AT THIS

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THERE IS ONE OTHER SOVIET SHIP, A NON-INTELLIGENCE COLLECTING FISHING TRAWLER, OFF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST, AND TWO FISHING TRAWLERS OFF THE FLORIDA COAST. NONE OF THESE ARE EQUIPPED WITH COLLECTION OR SPECIAL RECOVERY GEAR, AND ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO PRESENT EITHER CAUSE FOR CONCERN OR THREAT OF INTERFERENCE TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS.

WE CONCUR THAT A REVIEW OF SECURITY PROCEDURES COULD BE BENEFICIAL IN ASSURING THAT INFORMATION IS NOT PROVIDED GRATUITOUSLY ON NRO LAUNCHES WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR INTERESTS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH MIGHT COME FORWARD FROM THIS REVIEW SHOULD BE TEMPERED, HOWEVER, BY THE CONSIDERATION THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO CONCEAL FROM THE SOVIETS THE FACT THAT WE ARE CONDUCTING SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS. WE ARE TRYING TO PROTECT HOW WELL THE PROGRAM IS GOING, BUT THIS ASPECT IS INDIRECTLY RELATED TO ACTIVITIES AT THE TEST RANGES, AND WE DO NOT WANT TO CAUSE UNWARRANTED ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN AT THE LAUNCHING BASES BY REQUIRING SECURITY MEASURES WHICH ARE NOT NECESSARY TO PROTECTING THIS ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM. WE DO NOT

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RECOMMEND ANY CHANGES FROM STANDARD PRACTICES ON NOTIFICA-
TIONS OF LAUNCHES TO AIRMEN AND MARINERS, NOR DO WE
RECOMMEND AT THIS TIME EITHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE EFFORTS
ON BEHALF OF THE NRO TO DISCOURAGE SOVIET AGI ACTIVITY
OFF U.S. COASTS. THE FACT THAT THE PELENG DEPARTED
THE AREA PRIOR TO THE [REDACTED] LAUNCH FURTHER INDICATES THE
APPARENT COINCIDENCE OF ITS APPEARANCE. E-2 IMPDET.

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