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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

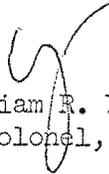
MEMORANDUM



January 24, 1967

Mr. Reber

Colonel Worthman asked me to review the attached drafts and pass to you our comments. Generally, we consider the redraft (dated 13 January 1967) to be very well written and most satisfactory from a policy point of view. Moreover, its content is heartwarming to those of us who are engaged continuously in "riding the fences of the NRP ranch." Specifically, I have a few suggestions which you may find worthwhile. These are attached for your consideration and possible use. We appreciate the opportunity to review this very important paper.


William R. Yost
Lt Colonel, USAF

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1. After first sentence, first paragraph add:

"The validity of this policy, approved by the President on July 10, 1962 as NSC Action 2454, was reaffirmed by the committee on July 11, 1966 following a review of the political and security aspects of non-military applications of satellite earth sensing."

2. In parenthetical sentence at end of numbered paragraph 1. change the word "an" to "the".

3. In sixth line of numbered paragraph 2. change the word "looking" to "sensing".

4. Change last sentence (underlined) of numbered paragraph 2. to read:

"Civil agencies may discuss future earth sensing systems involving sensors which would provide ground resolutions of 10-15 feet or more gross; however, the discussion of any system designed to produce ground resolutions finer than 10 feet may be conducted only with the express approval of the Director, NRO."

5. In the second line from top of page 3 (numbered paragraph 3) insert, "through NASA", between "arrange" and "for".

6. In numbered paragraph 4. place parenthetical sentence beginning with "(Cloud cover..." at very end of paragraph 4.

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13 January 1967

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Protection of Satellite Reconnaissance Programs

Recognizing the importance both of reconnaissance satellite operations to our national security and of our long range objectives to promote peaceful uses of space, a committee was established by NSAM 156, dated May 26, 1962, to formulate a national policy to permit applications of unclassified satellite earth sensing programs under control procedures which protect the political viability and the technology of our classified reconnaissance programs. In order to implement policy recommendations of the Committee in this regard, the President has approved the following procedures and related agency responsibilities.

~~Recognizing both the importance of reconnaissance satellite operations to our national security and our long range objectives to promote peaceful uses of space, NSAM 156, dated May 26, 1962, established the basis for a national policy which would avoid the danger of compromising highly classified reconnaissance programs and which at the same time would permit progress toward~~

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peaceful-space-activities.--in-the-past-few-years,--we-have
made-significant-steps-to-achieving-international-acceptance,
and-in-addition,--an-increasing-number-of-scientific-and-economic
applications-are-emerging.

In-order-to-permit-unclassified-applications-of-satellite
imagery-under-control-procedures-which-protect-the-political
viability-and-the-technology-of-our-reconnaissance-programs,
the-President-has-approved-the-following-procedures-and
related-agency-responsibilities.

1. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and
the Director of Central Intelligence, are responsible for insuring
that the classified reconnaissance programs will not be adversely
affected by possible political reactions to unclassified U.S.
earth sensing programs operating over foreign territory. To
this end, each program for earth sensing proposed by a civil
agency will be reviewed by the Secretary of State, the Secretary
of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence in light
of the political and security factors existing at the time the
program is to become operative over foreign territory. (The
presently constituted 303 Committee would be an appropriate
mechanism for effecting such a review.)

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2. The Director of NRO, under the supervision guidance of the Director of Central Intelligence, is responsible for establishing procedures to protect the reconnaissance system technology. Agencies will not study, design, develop, fabricate or test reconnaissance-like sensors* and related components for use in earth looking orbital systems, nor study or plan for the use of orbital systems using such sensors except with the express approval and in accordance with guidelines set by the Director of NRO. Civil agencies may discuss future earth sensing systems involving sensors down to a ground resolution of 10-15 feet; however, discussion of any system exceeding this resolution may be conducted only with the approval of the Director of NRO.

3. NASA is designated as the interface between the civil agencies and the intelligence community with regard to satellite systems and sensors. Any agency desiring a space system or sensor design study will submit its proposed work statement to NASA who will arrange for the appropriate review and clearance

*A reconnaissance-like sensor is defined as an image forming sensor having an angular resolution of 0.1 milliradian or finer, or an optical or infrared image forming system with a physical aperture greater than 30 cm. and an optical figure controlled to better than $\frac{1}{2}$ wave length.

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by the NRO. It will be the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to arrange for appropriate review and clearance of proposed programs by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence in line with Paragraph 1. In addition, so that the civil agencies can anticipate future technical possibilities, it will be NASA's responsibility to keep the agencies informed on a fully classified basis about the capability of space systems technology being developed by the NRO. To assist NASA in discharging this responsibility, each civil agency will inform NASA about its anticipated requirements for imagery from overhead vehicles.

4. Under guidelines established by the Director of Central Intelligence, the U.S. Geological Survey will establish and operate a fully classified facility in which the imagery that results from the classified reconnaissance programs can be used by appropriately cleared people from the civil agencies for civil map making, resource surveys and other peaceful uses. (Cloud cover imagery from the DOD weather satellites will continue to be handled in accordance with procedures already established between ESSA and the DOD.) ~~The U.S. Intelligence Board will determine the restrictions that will apply to the use of information derived from these surveys.~~ Until such a facility

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As available, the use of classified imagery by the civil agencies will be governed by special procedures established by the Director of Central Intelligence.

5. Agencies will not issue public statements which discuss systems using earth-looking satellites with sensors having resolutions of better than 10 feet, or which refer to the usefulness of observations from such satellites for any purpose whatsoever. In view of the sensitivity of public statements concerning surveillance by satellite, an agency which desires to release a public statement concerning satellite observations--even though that statement is not prohibited by the above restrictions-- any aspect of earth sensing activities, in being or planned, will coordinate the proposed release with the Departments of Interior, Commerce and Agriculture and with NASA and submit the release to the Department of State and the White House for clearance.

Each agency head is responsible for assuring compliance with the above procedures. To enable him to implement the provisions of the directive, he will designate and request T-III clearances for individuals within his organization who,

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in combination, will have knowledge and control of agency public statements, agency requirements for earth sensing and agency sponsored system design facilities.

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