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[REDACTED]

~~1st~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

[REDACTED]

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

30 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Wayne Smith on September 27, 1971

Wayne Smith is in Henry Kissinger's office and works various issues for Henry, including the NRO items. I discussed several issues with him.

1. Classification of the NRO Program. He would like to see us review the downgrading of the "fact of." He feels this is a continuing problem. He did not have any special advice for us.

2. He agrees with me that the Kissinger letter means that we should hold EOI to a [REDACTED] pending level. The IOC is stated very loosely to give us some flexibility. He said he would be glad to put this in more specific form if we like, but their intent was to respond favorably to the Laird suggestion of holding the funding down and letting the IOC fall somewhere in the 1976 time frame.

3. He is interested in our being able to fly continuously. He hopes we could do this without spending a lot of money. I told him it might cost us as much as [REDACTED] above current funding to buy in on such a program; that is, to buy enough extra inventory that, given a certain amount of notice, we could from that day on fly continuously. He said that, well, if it was like [REDACTED] per five years or something, that wouldn't seem like much; however [REDACTED] at one shot sounded pretty high. I told him that neither case was quite the way it would work out. The cost probably would amount to about [REDACTED] in each of three year budgets. We already have a leg up by having some extra CORONAs now. After three years, we would be able to get continuous coverage automatically, because we would have

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stretched the lifetimes of our [REDACTED] to the point where we could get full coverage with only [REDACTED] launches of each per year.

4. He would like to be briefed on our programs. He said he thinks Henry would want the briefings also, but suspects that when he mentions it to Henry, which he will do, Henry will suggest that he hear it and then advise him on whether or not it is good enough to be taken to Kissinger.

5. With respect to reorganizing the intelligence business, he said that he is taking up where Jim Schlesinger left off. He and Jim were working together on it. He said that the study which was done is being examined by various people now and it should culminate within a month's time in some kind of a position. He feels that whatever reorganizing is done would not have any effect on our office. He then made a lot of comments about the fact that he thought we were running a good operation. He feels that the Agency is not nearly careful enough with the money they spend, that the history of overruns is not very satisfactory, but that all in all the NRO is one of the few organizations in town which does the job it is supposed to do for a reasonable amount of money. So he is reluctant to talk about reorganizing it even to gain some apparent advantages in cost savings.

ML

John L. McLucas

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