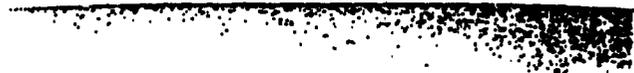


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Comments



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

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RUMSFELD
THRU MR. REED

SUBJECT: Briefing to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board was briefed on the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) this morning. The Chairman stated that the Board was interested in the management and streamlined operation of the NRP, the impact of the proposed new charter, and satellite survivability. Our formal briefing covered what the NRP encompasses, system descriptions, Space Transportation System interfaces, and satellite survivability.

Members of the Board made numerous observations. They expressed the opinion that the NRP management should be preserved as a unique establishment, commenting that it had realized remarkable achievements through the streamlined management technique. They believe that this capability might be degraded. We responded that the increasing number of interfaces is an item of concern to us, but as yet there is no impact on the quality of the program. When quizzed specifically regarding the impact of organizational changes, we responded that everyone is working to avoid degrading impacts.

The Board noted that NRP systems have increased in complexity, capability, life on orbit and costs, and as a consequence we are flying fewer vehicles. This is viewed as a strategy with significant risk in view of Soviet anti-satellite capabilities and the long pipeline times to replace satellites. It was stated that perhaps we should change our policy to build a greater number of cheaper systems. The Board expressed concern that we

~~_____~~
the U.S. does not have an anti-satellite capability.

Regarding the relationship between the ~~_____~~ and the Navy ~~_____~~ we observed that this question is being ~~_____~~

We have no formal follow-up actions.

~~_____~~
C. W. Cook
Acting

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