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CONTROL SYSTEM

**NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION**

THE NRO STAFF

June 29, 1973

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Ratliff**

On June 26 I had a brief very informal conversation at the EOB with Mr. Rob Roy Ratliff of the 40 Committee. I learned that the 5 June Kissinger memorandum was indeed written by Mr. Ratliff. He feels that both he and the principals of the 40 Committee are unaware of the relative effectiveness and usefulness of the collection of the U. S. Reconnaissance, therefore he is apprehensive each month when the 40 Committee must approve the U. S. covert activities. I gathered during the course of conversation that Mr. Ratliff was not aware of the magnitude of the study that he had inspired. He stated that one of the reasons for requesting such a study was that the 40 Committee has disapproved certain activities at the national level but from time to time has witnessed repercussions from a tactical reconnaissance activity which had been approved by a local theater commander. I believe he was referring to the Algerian coastal flights.

I told Mr. Ratliff that given the short suspense date on the study he was likely to receive a great deal of subjectivity in the response.

I relayed the gist of our conversation to Dr. Martin since the IC Staff was making arrangements to get together with Mr. Ratliff.

[REDACTED]

Major, USAF

*[Handwritten signature]*

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GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE  
GORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON RSP DET.

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