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CONTROL SYSTEM

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

August 20, 1974

THE NRO STAFF

**NOTE FOR GENERAL KULPA**

**SUBJECT: Thoughts on Omnibus NSCID**

At your request, the following thoughts on the omnibus NSCID are presented. Many of these thoughts stem from our experience as a result of the issuance of NSCID 6 and our working relationships with the community, particularly with the NSA. I have not been able to make an exhaustive study comparing the omnibus NSCID to the portions of NSCID 6 and other documents which direct our activities. My thoughts are as follows:

The note on the first page of the NSCID mentioning the required decompartmentation, if national reconnaissance activities were to be discussed in the SECRET NSCID, is unsettling. Although the fact of photographic satellite reconnaissance is DOD SECRET, the fact of SIGINT reconnaissance is still compartmented. In addition, the association of the NRO with these activities is also compartmented. The fact that the DCI even considers the possibility of decompartmentation of this information is disturbing. Paragraph 5c on Page 16 addresses the responsibilities of the National Security Agency. In this section the NSA is given the clear charter to develop and operate programs for the collection and processing of SIGINT. In addition, the Director, NSA, is given the authority to coordinate the planning and programming of such activities performed by other departments and agencies in the government. As this relates to the NRO, the DIRNSA is in the operational seat of our collection programs. In addition, he would almost be a member of the ExCom with regard to the planning and programming of our systems. However, as indicated later in the paragraph, the DCI could well publish additional directives to limit the charter of the DIRNSA with regard to our systems.

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Paragraph D on Page 18 again gives the DIRNSA operational and resource control over our systems except as exempted by the DCI or the Secretary of Defense.

On Page 22 and 23 the satellite reconnaissance responsibilities for the NRO are discussed. It is interesting that the NRO is given the responsibility for the programming and budgeting of the satellite systems. This would appear to dilute the responsibility of the DNRO from that of managing the NRO and executing the NRP. What is meant by additionally as directed by the National Security Council is unclear at this time.

On Page 22 paragraph a appears to assign to the CIA (IC Staff) the responsibility for developing, managing and operating our programs. Again, this takes away the direct management responsibility of the DNRO. It is interesting that not once in the section on national reconnaissance activities is the Director of the National Reconnaissance Program mentioned.

If we wish to push for change of the wording under national reconnaissance activities, it should be to reaffirm the role of the DNRO as the manager of the National Reconnaissance Office and the one charged with the responsibility for executing the NRP. Although the DCI would have overall responsibility for intelligence collection, he would not take such an apparently active role with regard to the operation of NRO satellite systems. Also, the responsibility of the DNRO for the design and development of satellite systems and their subsequent operation should be reaffirmed in this section.

  
Captain, USAF

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