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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

14 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. WADE, OSD(ISA)

SUBJECT: Briefing on Space Policy Committee

Here is a copy of an educational briefing we just gave Mr. Plummer. His thinking is that we should stress the importance of the national security aspect of the U.S. space program, stress the more general data handling problems and finally, stress the importance of the Committee to set policy for the technical Program Review Board. He feels that the Working Group so far has ignored the Terms of Reference which were provided via the Clements' request to establish the Space Policy Committee. He also thinks that there are too many people becoming involved judging by the attendance list for the principals' meeting. He agrees with Dr. Fletcher that the principals ought to define the issues not the Working Group and that a basic background paper would be more useful at this time than heading forthrightly into some predetermined issues which may or may not be valid.

I hope this helps you in your discussions with Ambassador Ellsworth.

[REDACTED]

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1 Attachment
Briefing

Classified by Dir, SAFSS
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B3
DECLASSIFY ON IMPDET



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OUR RECOMMENDED INPUT

- STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY VIS-A-VIS NATIONAL WELFARE INTERESTS AS THE NUMBER ONE GOAL--OUR PROGRAM IS AN IRREPLACEABLE ASSET AND MUST BE CONSERVATIVELY PROTECTED.
- MOVE TO HAVE THE WORKING GROUP ADDRESS MORE BROAD ISSUES WHICH ARE POLITICALLY ORIENTED.
 - HOW HAVE THE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENTS EVOLVED SINCE THE CIVIL EARTH RESOURCES PROGRAM WAS INITIATED?
 - TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE OPENLY CONDUCTED EARTH RESOURCES PROGRAM IMPACT ON THE CONDUCT OF OUR PROGRAM?
 - WHAT IS A RATIONAL POLICY FOR HANDLING CIVIL DATA? SHOULD ACQUISITION CONSTRAINTS ON DATA MANAGEMENT BE UNDERTAKEN.
- WE BELIEVE THAT THE FIVE SPECIFIC ISSUES WILL FALL OUT FROM A REVIEW OF THESE BROADER QUESTIONS.

MEETING SCENARIO

- A GREAT MANY PEOPLE WILL ATTEND. FOCUS WILL BE ON FLETCHER, PLUMMER AND OMB.
- COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS GOALS.
- A BASIC ISSUE WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN'S ISSUES ARE VALID.
- STATE, NSC AND OMB WILL TRY TO STRUCTURE THE INITIAL PAPER CENTERED AROUND THE FIVE ISSUES.
- NASA WILL PRESS FOR A BACKGROUND PAPER FIRST, A COMMITTEE DERIVED ISSUE PAPER SECOND.
- PROBABLE DECISION WILL BE TO ADDRESS SOME ISSUES BUT NOT ALL FIVE WITHIN THE FIRST PAPER.

OUR POSITION

- ORIGINAL GOALS (UNSTATED) WERE TO URGE A MORE LOGICAL CIVIL DATA POLICY, E.G., CLASSIFY IF NECESSARY OR DON'T ACQUIRE DATA MILITARILY USEFUL TO OTHERS.
- ALSO TO URGE A MORE CAREFUL ACQUISITION POLICY SO AS NOT TO PROVOKE OTHER NATIONS AGAINST EARTH OBSERVATION FROM SPACE.
- ALSO TO RATIONALIZE NASA INTEL ROLE SINCE NASA WANTS IN TO THE INTEL BUSINESS BUT WANTS DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION TO STAY OPEN.
- WE THINK THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS MUST PREVAIL OVER NATIONAL WELFARE INTERESTS.

VIEWS

- STATE, OMB, NSC SEEM TO WANT TO WORK ON SEVERAL SPECIFIC ISSUES NOW.
- NASA WANTS TO LET THE COMMITTEE DRIVE THE ISSUES, NOT THE WORKING GROUP.
- CIA WANTS TO MAKE ISSUES MORE BROAD AND FUNDAMENTAL.
- CIVIL SIDE WANTS TO OPTIMIZE CIVIL COLLECTION. ALSO WANTS TO USE MILITARY COLLECTED DATA.
- THE CHAIRMAN WANTS TO THROW THE QUESTION OF ISSUES OPEN TO THE PRINCIPALS--WE AGREE.
- OMB, SPECIFICALLY, IS HAVING A STRONG IMPACT.

ISSUES AS OUTLINED BY WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN

- WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY TO BE EMPLOYED IN CIVIL REMOTE EARTH SENSING PROGRAMS AND WHAT WOULD BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SELECTIVE CLASSIFICATION OF THE DATA ACQUIRED FROM THESE PROGRAMS?
- CAN BROADER USE BE MADE OF CLASSIFIED DATA COLLECTED BY EARTH SENSING INTELLIGENCE SATELLITES FOR CIVIL PURPOSES?
- SHOULD THE U.S. CONTINUE THE CURRENT POLICY OF CLASSIFYING THE "FACT OF" SATELLITE EARTH SENSING INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS?
- SHOULD THE U.S. ALTER CURRENT POLICIES OF OPEN DISTRIBUTION OF IMAGERY ACQUIRED FROM UNCLASSIFIED EARTH SENSING SATELLITES?
- SHOULD CHANGES BE MADE IN THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF REMOTE EARTH SENSING PROGRAMS?

STATUS

- WORKING GROUP HAS HAD TWO MEETINGS.
 - TWO CHAIRMEN SO FAR
 - MANY MEMBERS INCLUDING OMB, NOAA AND INTERIOR.
 - ISSUES UNFOCUSED--NOT AS WE ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO DISCUSS
 - CURRENT CHAIRMAN IS ACTING AS OMBUDSMAN TO FOCUS ISSUES.
 - STRAWMAN DRAFT IS IN WORK--NOT COHESIVE YET
- NO UNDERLYING GOAL ESTABLISHED YET.

BACKGROUND

- **NSC SPACE POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) IS TO PROVIDE OVERALL NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMPATIBLE OPERATION OF CIVIL AND MILITARY SPACE PROGRAMS.**
- **SPC SHOULD SET PHILOSOPHY FOR PROGRAM REVIEW BOARD TECHNICAL REVIEWS.**
- **SPC SET UP TO UNIFY THINKING AMONG THE AGENCIES.**