

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

May 16, 1968

Paul:

This is extremely interesting. But, I notice Dr. Flax didn't respond to the question related to clearance for the committee members.

Why don't we at this level just assume that he thinks TKA plus the T5 memo are enough and see what happens.



Mr. Marra

AMEN!

Dave

Authority for C-O-U
given by Mr. Marra 1 July 1968

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEM

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

WORKING COPY

14 MAY 1968

file
SEC-H-9
/
"NASA"

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Homer:

I was pleased to receive your letter of April 19 and appreciate your thoughtfulness in keeping us informed of your plans for developing an understanding of satellite observation policy in other governmental agencies.

Dr. Foster, Dr. Wilson, and I have reviewed your proposed in-house policy statement on satellite observation and agree with its content and classification. We believe it would strengthen your position with the in-house audience to add these clarifying sentences to the bottom of page 1, end of paragraph 3, as follows: "The nature and extent of such disclosure at any given time is subject to approval by the appropriate national authorities. Specific studies, plans, projects and programs which are not clearly within permissible levels of disclosure will therefore require review and coordination within the Government prior to action by NASA to initiate or implement such studies, plans, projects and programs." This makes it plain to the NASA reader that the issue goes far beyond technical considerations and that the approval authority is therefore outside any single governmental department.

Sincerely,

Alexander H. Flax

Dr. Homer E. Newell
Associate Administrator
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Washington, D. C.
20546

80514019

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO. 64201302667
COPY 3 OF 3 COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 1

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

1. It is the policy of NASA to support and further the concepts of open skies and freedom of space. The community of nations in general supports both concepts, either explicitly or tacitly; we may expect continued and even expanded acceptance unless governments or peoples believe that the exercise of these freedoms violates national sovereignty, invades domestic privacy, or usurps property rights.

2. NASA must therefore carry out its aeronautical and space activities under carefully developed ground rules that permit technological progress while avoiding confrontations that could jeopardize the nation's ability to work freely in space and in the air, either on a national or global scale.

3. One of the potentially most sensitive areas of NASA activities is earth observation from aircraft and spacecraft. Such applications programs as those in meteorology or earth resources surveys run the risk of being misconstrued as unfriendly acts on the part of the United States Government. NASA must, in the execution of its programs, protect the possibility of continued useful research and development activity in these areas. Public acceptance of earth sensing from space can best be achieved over a period of time. This calls for a gradual and controlled disclosure of spaceborne sensor capabilities rather than for any sudden revelation thereof.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

This document consists of 3 pages
No. 14 of 12 Copies Series 21

4. Since NASA's experience todate with earth sensor systems in space extends only to meteorological satellites and astronaut photography, the first phase of technological disclosure should not indicate too radical a departure from this prior base of published and open data. Therefore, for the present NASA will not discuss publicly, propose, fund, define, develop, or include in any mission:

a. spaceborne image-forming devices capable of a ground resolution of less than 100 feet from 100 nautical miles altitude.

b. spaceborne image-forming active emitters, such as lasers or radars, in any form.

5. To assure that, even within these constraints, international or security sensitivities are properly considered, all space-acquired earth imagery will be subject to classified review prior to public or in-house release. Procedures for such review are being developed by the Office of DOD and Interagency Affairs.

6. While airborne sensor technology is not under the same limitations as are space systems, sensors tested in aircraft for space application will conform to the ground rules noted above.

7. The security classification of this document is TOP SECRET. This classification extends to the existence of the policy as well as to its substance. Addressees will become thoroughly familiar with its contents, will abide by its spirit as well as its contents, and will so conduct their assigned duties as to assure that the stated policy is not contravened.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

-3-

8. Addressees are not authorized to discuss this policy or its implementation except with those officials indicated on the distribution list.

James E. Webb
Administrator

~~TOP SECRET~~

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

WORKING COPY
10 APR 1968

Honorable Alexander H. Flax
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Research and Development)
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Al:

In reviewing the security and management considerations of the NASA earth resources survey effort, we have determined that it is necessary to work with the user community through some formal mechanism rather than on an ad-hoc or informal basis. We feel that an interagency committee chaired by NASA would provide a controlled means for information exchange, policy review, requirements validation, and planning coordination. We are planning to structure this group with the following membership:

Department of Agriculture

Dr. George Mehren
Assistant Secretary
of Agriculture

U. S. Geological Survey

Dr. William Pecora
Director

Environmental Science
Services Administration

Dr. Robert M. White
Administrator

Department of the Navy

Dr. Robert Froesch
Assistant Secretary
of the Navy (R&D)

To our knowledge, only Dr. Froesch has the EYEMAN clearances necessary for access to the policy background and coordination activities that are concerned with sensor thresholds and development constraints.

#80419011

~~TOP SECRET~~

Bye - 17521-68

This document consists of 21 pages
No. 1 of 3 copies Series 11

~~TOP SECRET~~
BYEMAN-TALENT-KEYHOLE
CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY

HANDLE VIA

We feel strongly that interagency planning must reflect a full understanding of the current policy framework which we have developed jointly with DOD and your office and within which we must operate in the interest of national security. I believe the committee could operate either on the basis of appropriate BYEMAN clearances granted by your office or, if more appropriate, in accordance with TOP SECRET guidelines of the sort discussed at our last Manned Space Flight Policy Committee meeting in November. (You will recall that those dealt fairly specifically with the limiting criteria).

On this last point, I am enclosing a different draft of a possible TOP SECRET NASA policy directive. While far less explicit than either the available BYEMAN documentation or the earlier draft tabled at the Policy Committee meeting, this might serve our urgent internal needs for an interim mechanism that would permit NASA to control discussion and to channel planning activities within the agency. I do not feel the enclosed draft, however, would be adequate to the needs of the inter-agency group, all of whom already hold TALENT-KEYHOLE clearances and are therefore aware of the nature, but not of the specifics, of the constraints within which NASA is operating.

I am taking the liberty of attaching a copy of this letter for your transmittal to Dr. Foster if you agree that this would be in the interest of time and of full coordination of problems of mutual interest. Perhaps we should plan to discuss this matter and related topics at a Policy Committee meeting in the near future.

I would much appreciate your guidance on these questions, since we are coming to the point where the NASA program and policy decisions must take decisive direction.

Sincerely,



Homer E. Newell
Associate Administrator

Attachment

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN-TALENT-KEYHOLE
CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY

~~TOP SECRET~~