

8 June 65

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Arthur C. Lundahl, Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT: Mission 1021 Changes

With reference to your letter of 27 May [REDACTED] I share your concern that the National Photographic Interpretation Center was unaware of operational specifics on Mission 1021 and therefore could not prepare adequately for data exploitation.

In researching the background leading to this event, I note that the proposal to fly this mission in a reverse orientation was discussed at COMOR meetings during April, commencing with the session on April 1. The discussions are made a matter of record in the minutes for the meeting of April 8, and my staff assumed that you would be alerted to the reversed orientation of the 1021 satellite by your COMOR representative.

Fortunately, as you point out in your memorandum, no serious consequences resulted from this particular breakdown in communications; however, our reliance upon a formal committee mechanism was clearly misplaced. There is no adequate substitute for informal personal contact and, as illustrated by this specific case, for a continuing, close liaison between the NRO and the NPIC. You have probably anticipated my next point which is to reiterate that we would both profit from the full-time assignment of an NPIC employee to the NRO staff.

I appreciate your bringing this incident to my attention and assure you that we will do our best to keep you informed of any future operational discussions which might affect product exploitation.

cc: DDS&T

CORONA

Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

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