

2/027

[Handwritten signature]
[Redacted]

02/769000 14 00069272D
[Barcode]

[Redacted]

Copy
8 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, NRO Staff

**SUBJECT : General Maxwell Taylor's Inquiries
Concerning the Application of
Photographic Satellites in Crisis
Situations**

1. On 31 August a briefing team from the Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, and National Security Agency met with General Maxwell Taylor to discuss with him certain aspects of intelligence collection problems during and subsequent to the Middle East military crisis. General Taylor was particularly interested in photographic satellite reconnaissance in the context of the Middle East crisis, as well as the more general problem of the utilization of such vehicles in crisis situations.

2. In response to General Taylor's questions, a brief discussion ensued concerning the coverage of the Middle East obtained by photographic satellites during the crisis period. As a result of these discussions, [Redacted] office has received several questions from General Taylor, the answers to which he has requested in memorandum form. The following is a brief statement of these questions interpreted by the undersigned in the context of the 31 August discussions.

3. Question One: What would be the costs associated with maintaining a CORONA vehicle in a launch ready status on a continuous or nearly continuous basis? What are the current plans with regard to implementing such a capability? (General Taylor is aware the CORONA system has the capability for holding at R -1 for timely periods up to 30 days.)

[Stamp]

Declassified and Released by the NRO

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

HANDLE VIA [Redacted]
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

in Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

**SUBJECT: General Maxwell Taylor's Inquiries Concerning the
Application of Photographic Satellites in Crisis
Situations**

4. Question Two: What is the status of the technology with regard to near real time recovery imagery in support of decision making in crisis situations?

5. Question Three: What techniques are available to circumvent the cloud cover problem encountered with normal photographic satellite systems? (Based on the 31 August discussion, General Taylor probably has in mind side-looking radar imagery.)

6. It is understood that General Taylor's requirements will be satisfied by brief, summary answers to the above questions.

7. [REDACTED] and Dr. Flax have discussed the method of responding to these questions and have agreed that the answers should be forwarded to General Taylor with a cover memorandum from Dr. Flax as Director, National Reconnaissance Office. The answers are to be prepared by [REDACTED] in consultation with the undersigned.

151
[REDACTED]
Chief, Design and Analysis Division
Office of Special Projects

cc: [REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~
TOP SECRET

[REDACTED]
Page Two

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY