

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

COPY NO. 

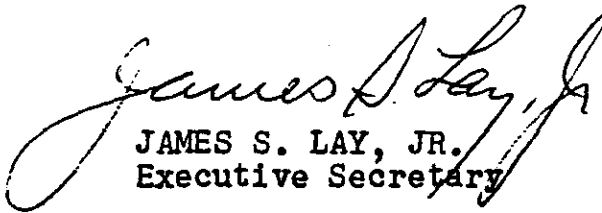
July 29, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Operational Capability of
Reconnaissance Satellites

REFERENCES: A. NSC Action No. 1846
B. NSC 5814
C. NSC Action No. 1941

The enclosed memorandum from the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology on "Advanced Reconnaissance Satellite Development Program", prepared pursuant to NSC Action No. 1941-b, is transmitted herewith for consideration by the National Security Council at its meeting on Thursday, July 31, 1958; together with the recommendation by the Department of Defense in NSC Action No. 1941-a.


JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

Declassified and Released by the N R C

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

TOP SECRET

July 28, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Advanced Reconnaissance Satellite Development Program

REFERENCE: NSC Action No. 1941

1. Pursuant to the reference NSC Action, the scheduled program for development of the Advanced Reconnaissance Satellite has been studied. The following comments are pertinent:

(a) Up to 32 satellite vehicles are now planned for the development of the 117-L reconnaissance system, including 13 Atlas boosted vehicles.

(b) The last eight of the 13 Atlas boosted vehicles, although in the development phase of the program, will have a reconnaissance capability of some degree and will also pass over the USSR.

(c) The first of this group of eight satellite vehicles is currently scheduled for launching in March 1960.

(d) The program as planned (FY '59, 215 million dollar program) does not include funds for procurement of any vehicles beyond the development vehicles listed above.

(e) The scheduled availability and launching dates presented in Annex B, NSC 5814, are dependent upon initiating contracts very shortly because of the long lead time required for design, construction, etc.

2. In the light of the above comments, it is recommended that the Department of Defense recommendation be accepted with the following modifications:

...with the understanding that Presidential authorization with respect to the launching of the eight development satellites capable of reconnaissance over the USSR and the subsequent scope of the operational capability of the program, will be sought by the Department of Defense in early 1960 or prior to the launching of the first of the above eight satellites, whichever date is sooner.

/S/ J. R. KILLIAN, JR.