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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAY 3 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. R. M. BISSELL, JR.

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Standing Group for the Technical Evaluation of Satellite Reconnaissance Photography

We have been increasingly interested in the amount of technical data being obtained from satellite photography and the methods of providing this data to the Directors of Program I and Program II and the Aerial Reconnaissance Laboratory, ASD. We find that useful engineering data is being subordinated by the high priority of intelligence information.

Furthermore the compartmentation of operational and intelligence activities into separate secure facilities using separate and special clearances makes it difficult to generate an exchange of information. It is expected that these physical and administrative barriers will continue to retard the desired exchange of technical data which could be useful in improving the performance of satellite reconnaissance systems.

I suggest that we appoint a group of technically qualified persons enjoined with the responsibility of reviewing the results of satellite reconnaissance missions for the specific purpose of accomplishing an engineering evaluation. The intent of this group will be to make recommendations for the improvement of subsequent missions.

The following group, who are currently appropriately cleared and technically qualified, would meet on a periodic basis to determine the characteristics of the photography and the causes of any undesirable effects:

Mr. Arthur Lundahl, Director, NPIC
Mr. John Cain, Director of Research, NPIC
Maj Charles F. Hoy, Jr., Chief Photographic Officer, DDP
Col William King, Director, Program I, SAFSP
Col Paul Heran, Director, Program II, SAFSP
Col Lee Battle, Director of Discoverer Program, SSD
[redacted] Photographic Engineer, SAFSP
[redacted] Director of Research, AFSPPL
Mr. Leonard W. Crouch, Reconnaissance Laboratory, ASD
Lt Col C. E. James, Asst for Photography, SAFMS
Maj H. C. Howard, Asst for Systems Engineering, SAFMS

JOSEPH V. CHARYK
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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