



STAFF COORDINATION SHEET

TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (SURNAME), GRADE AND DATE	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (SURNAME), GRADE AND DATE
1	SS-8		9	SS	COORD
2	SS-7	COORD <i>[Signature]</i>	10	SAF/USS	SIGN
3	SS-6		11	SAF/US	
4	SS-5	COORD <i>[Signature]</i> 25 May 84			
5	SS-4				
6	SS-3				
7	SS-2	REVV <i>[Signature]</i>			
8	SS-1	REVV <i>[Signature]</i>			

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE	SYMBOL	PHONE	TYPYST'S INIT	SUSPENSE DATE
LTC ANDREWS	SS-5B	41141	clw	
SUBJECT: National Air and Space Museum Request for a Satellite Reconnaissance Camera				DATE 25 May 1984

The National Air and Space Museum submitted a request to the DCI for a "satellite reconnaissance" camera to include in a new exhibit scheduled to open to the public in the spring of 1986 (Tab 1). DDS&T forwarded the request to the Staff (Tab 2) after supplying the DCI with an interim response (Tab 3). There are at least four existing sets of hardware that would be candidates for this request:

- 1) A CORONA Camera mockup at NPIC
 - Late 60's to early 70's technology
 - Built by ITEK/GE
 - Suspected to be the subject of the request
- 2) A Mapping Camera mockup at the DMA Hydrographic Topographic Center
 - Mid 70's technology
 - Built by ITEK/GE
- 3) Two KH-7 GAMBIT vehicles stored at VAFB
 - Last flown 1967
 - Built by EK/GE
- 4) KH-8 engineering model
 - Last operational vehicle on orbit
 - Current technology

The first three candidates probably do not reveal current state-of-the-art technology. The KH-8 model is similar to that currently on orbit and would reveal current technology. There are several arguments against releasing any hardware:

- While the "fact of" satellite "photoreconnaissance" for use in monitoring arms control agreements is unclassified, satellite reconnaissance for intelligence purposes remains classified by NSDD-42.

(cont'd)

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-- While it may be possible to write the history/explanation of the system to stress the arms control purpose, it is not clear whether the Air and Space Museum would accept a DCI mandated statement or write their own version.

-- Even with DCI approved statement, viewers would probably assume the camera also performed an intelligence mission.

-- The CORONA and KH-7 cameras predate formal arms limitation agreements.

- Unless the demise of the DISCOVERER or SAMOS program were used as the ending date of the program, the continuation of DISCOVERER or SAMOS as "some other program" would be revealed, indicating a "covert" U.S. reconnaissance program, fueling speculation and possible inquiry into the details of that program.

- Appearance of the camera would increase media attention and request for details, as well as FOIA requests for such information as:

- Identity of camera manufacturer
- Type of film
- Release of photography
- More detailed history of program
- Details of current programs/capabilities used to verify treaties

- A discussion of film recovery method would reveal current methods, and if tied to the existence of the recovery group, would imply an on-going film recovery-type program since the recovery group continues in existence.

- Appearance of hardware may signal to briefed and previously briefed individuals a relaxation of security posture regarding satellite photoreconnaissance activities with resultant increase in media articles, books, speeches about details of U.S. efforts. Current difficulties in maintaining security of satellite reconnaissance activities (i.e., leak problem) argue against release of hardware.

- Appearance of hardware may allow an adversary to fill in gaps in knowledge that remain regarding this program. May falsely signal a change in U.S. policy with regard to satellite reconnaissance.

- There is no tangible benefit to the NRO by release of candidate hardware.

The arguments for releasing this hardware include:

- Documentation of this type of activity for historical purposes.
- Citizen's "right to know" what the Government is doing in space.

To our knowledge, the only previous release of related hardware was the first successful reentry vehicle from DISCOVERER which is on display. The reasons for it's release are believed to be to demonstrate the U.S. technology accomplishment of recovering an object from space. However, the description included with the display is believed to contain the word "Reconnaissance."

Since candidate hardware is being preserved in-place, it will be available at a later date should history and conditions warrant. The attached memorandum to the DCI recommends against release of the camera at this time. Programs A and B concur in this position.

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