

~~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.

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