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27 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, COMOR

SUBJECT: Relationship between the NRO and the COMOR

Reference: Agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, 2 May 1962 (BYE 1166-62)

Further to our recent conversation concerning COMOR relationship with the NRO, I think it is desirable to summarize our present understanding.

The referenced Agreement is quite explicit: "The NRO will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal (SIGINT) collection requirements and priorities established by the USIB and will develop the over-all reconnaissance program to satisfy these requirements." The NRO understands the role of the COMOR in preparing such statements for USIB approval, and can work directly with COMOR as a subsidiary of USIB on some matters. However, any COMOR guidance having substantive impact on the National Reconnaissance Program or projects of this program must be approved specifically by the USIB. This includes any guidance for which compliance will result in changes in the configuration of the over-all program or any projects of this program, changes in cost, and changes in schedules. It also includes any documents which are intended to provide guidance as to the type and size of the program that should be developed by the NRO, such as USIB-D-33.6/8, "Intelligence Requirements for Satellite Reconnaissance Systems of which SAMOS is an Example," dated 5 July 1960, and any subsequent guidance intended as modifications or revisions of this basic document.

In regard to the data essential to the actual operation of established projects, which do not affect costs or schedules, such as target lists and relative priorities of targets for specific projects or launches, the NRO will respond directly to guidance from the COMOR without the necessity of specific USIB approval.

Signed
John L. Martin, Jr.
Colonel, USAF
Director, NRO Staff

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