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WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE NRO STAFF

June 4, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Working Arrangements with General Smart's Office

PROBLEM:

To advise you of recent events in developing closer liaison and better working arrangements with General Smart's office in NASA.

BACKGROUND:

Since arriving at NASA, as Admiral Boone's replacement, General Smart has spent a great deal of time and energy in an effort to build more understanding between NASA and the DOD, particularly in the area of earth-sensing. His office, now called the Office of DOD and Interagency Affairs, has been expanded in scope and strength to reflect this emphasis. He is convinced that NASA must move resolutely toward an earth-sensing program; however, he believes that resolution must be governed by a clear knowledge of what is possible and proper in the light of national security and international relationships.

Recently, he has met with General Berg to disclose the work he is doing with NASA's leaders to increase awareness of, and sensitivity to, the NRP security environment. He left several proposed memoranda with us as evidence of typical actions which he believed could and should be taken by NASA within NASA. He also asked that Myron Krueger--his primary staff officer for these matters--be permitted to work with me in exploring other possibilities.

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Myron and I have met twice and have prepared a list of proposed actions for further discussion. I believe most of these proposals serve the interests of both organizations and should be developed further, except as noted in one case.

1. TOP SECRET NASA In-House Statement on Earth-Sensing Activities. General Smart looks on this paper as the fundamental document to a new "disciplinary environment" (his words) which he hopes to develop in NASA. The Statement has been prepared, coordinated by the DOD members of the MSFPC, and is ready for release. In an effort to avoid the very complicated process of coordinating a paraphrase of the July 11, 1966 report of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee, General Smart used guidelines stricter than those in the NSAM, such as (1) resolutions more gross than 100 feet from 100 miles, (2) no radars, and (3) no lasers. It will be interesting to see if NASA can really live with this policy, for it will have rather drastic implications for every one of their in-house study or contract work statements covering earth-sensing. This TOP SECRET statement is to be shown to about 25 top-level NASA officials, in Washington and at the Centers.

2. CONFIDENTIAL NASA In-House Statement on Earth-Sensing Activities. General Smart believes that NASA needs a paper, classified CONFIDENTIAL or lower, which can be distributed widely to carry a message of caution and restriction on NASA earth-sensing activities. Myron and I are in amicable disagreement over the possibility of producing a releasable, useful paper at this security level. In the first place, I cannot invent a CONFIDENTIAL rationale for restricting NASA's program. Myron's first draft cited U. S. apprehension over possible international challenge to the legality of earth-sensing. This, of course, will not do in a CONFIDENTIAL report since (1) such apprehension, when expressed in the NASA context, is actually contrary to announced national policy and (2) if expressed, it calls for security protection at some level above TOP SECRET. Secondly, any CONFIDENTIAL release on this subject will appear verbatim in "Aviation Week." I think I can convince Myron to forget the CONFIDENTIAL paper and to stick to the idea of a small audience reading the TOP SECRET document.

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3. A Personalized Security Briefing to Accompany the TOP SECRET In-House Statement. In the security business, reading a paper is not enough, just as reading a BYEMAN code-word indoctrination booklet is not enough. The 25 top-level NASA representatives need to have their personal questions answered. For example:

- a. What am I expected to do?
- b. How do I put this into effect in my organization?
- c. May I paraphrase this and tell my people?
- d. What may I tell the press, when queried on restrictions? Ditto for Congress.
- e. To whom do I turn with problems?
- f. Etc, Etc.

We are helping Myron prepare a question-and-answer booklet constructed along these lines. This booklet is to be used as a set of notes for personal conferences with the 25 top-level NASA employees.

4. A Follow-Up Security Briefing after Six Months. Since NASA key personnel do no day-to-day work in the security area, we are recommending a refresher briefing.

5. An Anticipatory "Control Clause" for Contract Work Statements and In-House Studies. Many security guide line problems associated with NASA contractual and in-house work could be avoided by anticipating those projects which will tend to stray toward reconnaissance-like sensors. A "control clause," reflecting the restrictions in NASA's TOP SECRET in-house statement, should be built into such activities right at the start. Such a phrase might read as follows, "In carrying out this work the /contractor/ /study team/ will confine /his/ /its/ consideration of earth-sensors to those capable of producing resolutions more gross than 100 feet from 100 nm."

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6. A DOD Policy Statement on NASA Satellite-Borne Astronomy Projects. NASA believes that the McMillan-Seamans guidelines inhibit its astronomy program, particularly the guideline on pointing accuracy. At its last meeting the MSFPC has assigned the NRO the task of producing a paper on this subject. We plan to have this paper ready for you in about a week; its thrust will be simple: (1) we are not particularly concerned over bona fide space-sensing astronomical experiments, (2) we recognize that good astronomy calls for good pointing, (3) we can protect the NRP and NRP-derived technology quite adequately by reviewing NASA's astronomy program in SACC, and (4) we really don't expect many problems.

7. A NSAM to Control Earth-Sensing Activities of Other Governmental Agencies. NASA is sensitive to the fact that other governmental agencies, such as Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture are not controlled by a mandatory coordinating mechanism governing earth-sensing activities. As you recall, the July 11, 1966 statement of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee urged the issuance of a NSAM which would make NASA "lead crew" for the earth sensing activities of non-defense/non-intelligence agencies. We joined ASD/ISA in making two proposals for such a NSAM but nothing happened, largely, we were told, because of resistance by the three departments to becoming "subservient" to NASA. I think we can help NASA to get another proposal assembled and on the way to the White House--perhaps to Dr. Hornig, this time.

8. A BYEMAN Billet Structure for NASA. We are now working with Floyd Sweet to prepare a BYEMAN billet structure for all of NASA. This device has a positive stabilizing influence on DOD activities and we believe it will serve a similar purpose for NASA.

9. Relieve the Pressure from the "User Community." NASA claims it is under constant pressure from the "user community" to produce photographs from satellites. Accepting this statement at face value, we believe that the pressure could be reduced significantly, and perhaps dramatically, by giving the "user community" photographs taken from aircraft. It is ironic that the very pictures which the geologists, hydrologists, agronomists, oceanographers, foresters, urban planners and their associates

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are hoping to have three years from now can be produced today, in color, black-and-white, or "multispectral" at very fine resolutions, relatively easily and inexpensively. Our U-2's and SR-71's fly regularly, making practice photographic runs over the U. S. With a little planning by a few experts, a portion of the U. S. could be covered in such a way as to amaze and delight the "user community" and to absorb its energies and enthusiasms for months and years to come. I believe this is the most positive step we can take to reduce tensions between the DOD and NASA in the field of earth-sensing. Kelly Johnson and some of his friends are so enthusiastic about what he calls a "conciliatory strategy" that he has helped assemble an inexpensive proposal in which LMSC plans a program with California state agencies (particularly those working on water control, forestry, agriculture, and air pollution), photographs the state with a U-2 (using the NRO's multispectral camera), and works with the agencies in learning how to interpret and use the results.

Unfortunately, there are only two people in NASA who are interested in photos from aircraft: Myron Krueger and General Smart. This may be enough, if they are able to stimulate NASA to ask us to assist in conducting such a project. We would be serving our own interests directly, as well as indirectly, since such a project would fit reasonably well into the work Harry Woo is already doing for us in Multispectral Imaging.

RECOMMENDATION:

These comments are for information only. I will continue to report to you as we progress on these items.

Paul Jr.
Paul Worthman
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director

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