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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I have reviewed the various components of the National Geodetic Satellite Program and find that there are two differing forces attempting to achieve the same data validity for seemingly different purposes, both with and without classification of the data. The Department of Defense continually strives to reduce geodetic and gravimetric errors for purposes of improving our target accuracy in our weapons systems, and thereby classifies both the processes involved and the results achieved. The scientific community spearheaded by NASA on the other hand is attempting to derive similar gravimetric and geodetic data with similar accuracies, on an unclassified basis, for the purpose of motivating the international scientific community to do scientific investigations related to understanding our physical environment to a much finer degree. For example, continental drift is of vital concern to the scientist and has been for hundreds of years. Similarly, the determination of the size and shape of the earth to a mathematical accuracy which eliminates uncertainties is a worthwhile endeavor. Obviously there are others. I find, however, that the enemies of the U.S. do not share this scientific drive in lieu of military need. Specifically, the Soviet Union considers its geodetic and gravimetric data to be classified Top Secret and maintains such strict control that it cannot be acquired even by covert efforts. Further, there has not been any quid pro quo in this entire data area relative to Communist Bloc nations and the remainder of the free world. Therefore I request that an examination of this problem be undertaken by the National Security Council and a national geodetic classification policy be established which protects appropriate defense information when it exceeds the following unclassified data accuracies:

1. A national policy is necessary to protect as defense information:
 - (a) Gravitational models of the earth more accurate than provided by the NGSP, i.e., the NWL 5-E solution.
 - (b) Intercontinental positional relationships more accurate than provided by the NGSP; i.e., + 10 meters.
 - (c) Advanced data reduction methodology and instrumentation advancements.

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Further, I recommend that the following policy considerations be implemented until the National Geodetic Classification Policy has been developed:

1. As a basic guideline, the dissemination of world-wide geodetic results and data is not to be released until and unless reciprocal arrangements are made by the scientific community.
2. Scientists from Communist countries not be authorized access to organizations where geodetic satellite analyses are being conducted.

Signed
PAUL H. NITZE

cc: Administrator, NASA
 Dr. Donald F. Hornig, OST
 Deputy Under Secretary of State
 for Political Affairs
 V Adm Rufus Taylor, Dep Dir, CIA

bcc: Sec Def
 OASD(ISA)
 Dir, DIA (DIAMC) ← W. McGough, Jr/fp/21 Oct 68
 OSA(TA), ODDR&E - 78914
 Retyped 4 Nov 68 per Col. Furlong/fp

COORDINATION: Clifford I. Cummings _____
 OASD(ISA) (See attached sheet)

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