

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

May 68

Paul-

Mr. Flay has read this file - He said "thanks".

The meeting with Mr. Newell principally covered the letter that Mr. Flay has taken to Mr. Foster. Also some discussion of Vol 7 which you know about.

Mr. Flay pointed out that such discussions and agreements take a long time, but he is pleased to note the way they are going now. "We are lucky to have a John Smart" he says. I agree.

Let's plan to meet with Smart soon -

Rees

*R. J. BYEMAN-70.*  
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CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY



LIKELY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEWELL VISIT

1. Thank Dr. Flax for approving the TOP SECRET in-house earth-sensing statement and show him what is now proposed for release by NASA.

2. Discuss the Volume 7 problem. SACC has reviewed the Panel Reports from last summer's Woods Hole conference. All reports save one have been edited to a point where they conform with SACC guidelines. The exception is Volume 7, on mapping and geodesy, which repeatedly proposes sensors identical to those now in use by us and, of course, in violation of SACC guidelines. NASA is rather desperate to release all Panel Reports for use at Woods Hole again this summer. We are negotiating on a SECRET classification on Volume 7, making five copies available but none to be distributed. This item should be left with SACC where I expect it to be resolved on a reasonable basis. There is even cause to believe that NASA may move out of mapping and geodesy, as a result of the inherent security problems accompanying any such programs.

3. Discuss the "Community Needs" problem. NASA likes to picture itself as an innocent party who only transponds the needs of "the community." Therefore, they say we should not be surprised if NASA documents record needs which violate SACC guidelines. Two replies are indicated. First, we expect NASA to exercise considerable ingenuity in controlling community needs (as contrasted to "what do you want"). Second, the TOP SECRET in-house statement will be helpful in controlling the "community," directly via top-level NASA management and indirectly by the usual osmosis. (By the way, we've never been able to find out what constitutes a potential user.)

4. Discuss problems with non-controlled agencies. NASA also likes to picture the "threat" posed by Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior who can "run wild" and "say anything they wish." While we agree that we should all push for a NSAM making NASA "lead crew" on non-intelligence earth-sensing, we are not actually being "threatened" by the civil US government.

IN GENERAL, we are making good progress with NASA. Much of the credit goes to the Williamsons and Kruegers who have moved in on the problem and are determined to solve it.

*Paul see they right away-*

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~~TOP SECRET~~

STRICTLY IN HOUSE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 17, 1958

MEMORANDUM TO ADA/Mr. Shapley

1. These are the points I wanted to make at our brief meeting this morning:

a. It is important that NASA impose tighter controls on what is done, written and said in the field of earth sensing.

b. An essential element of tighter control is self discipline, which in turn is dependent upon, inter alia, appreciation of the possibilities of ERS. Adequate appreciation of sensitivity and constraints imposed thereby does not now exist within NASA, and certainly not in outside agencies.

c. Some, but not nearly all, of the sensitivity emanates from classified sources. In my view the unclassified bases for sensitivity, (the possibility that observations from aircraft or space vehicles would be construed as violation of sovereignty or infringement of personal privacy and property rights,) are in themselves ample justification for imposing tighter control.

d. The draft memo of 21 March to NASA's Centers, program and staff offices, was designed to point up unclassified reasons for control, and the designation of a single office to develop, promulgate, and exercise needed control within NASA and to devise ways of meaningfully influencing what is done, written and said by NASA's external agents or affiliates.

e. The development of needed control is in itself a sensitive matter. The nature of ERS endeavors requires that constraints be practiced by each and every individual involved. The majority of involved individuals are not a part of NASA. NASA's ability to exercise control over them is tenuous at best. Nevertheless, national interest requires that sensible constraints be practiced.

f. Our first task, then, becomes that of acquainting and convincing a large number of people in industry, universities, government, scientific and engineering bodies as well as those in NASA that ERS is sensitive and that national interest requires that care be exercised in what is said and written.

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g. A second and perhaps more difficult task will be that of identifying and articulating (in terms meaningful to many individuals of diverse backgrounds, interests, objectives) acceptable constraints on what is done, written and said which will in fact avoid pitfalls but not unduly inhibit initiative or deny progress.

h. In my view, we must insist that DOD share responsibility with NASA for finding and following a sensible path between unduly inhibiting constraints on the one hand and self-defeating laxness on the other. This, of course, requires the exercise of judgment which should be arrived at only after many, varied, and complex factors have been recognized, evaluated, and correlated.

i. Accomplishing these tasks will require the concerted and continuing efforts of thoughtful, responsible men representing various earth science disciplines, high level management of several governmental agencies, and perhaps most important of all, men capable of marshaling the strengths of many individuals and agencies.

2. I hope that you and I can meet with Drs. Newell and Naugle, and Mr. Jaffe, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Krueger at an early date.

Jacob E. Smart  
Assistant Administrator for  
DOD and Interagency Affairs

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D R A F T (3rd)  
W(JESmart:ewh)  
March 21, 1968

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Field Centers  
Directors, Headquarters Program and Staff Offices

SUBJECT: Earth Resources Survey Program

The NASA has sought over the years to ensure that its objectives are generally understood, its programs are recognized as worthy national endeavors, and its management practices are of a high order of excellence. These endeavors have enjoyed some success; however, in this era of political, social, and economic tension and stress brought on by conflict in Southeast Asia, positive endeavors to achieve understanding need to be augmented by measures designed to minimize potential negative results. It is important now that we give attention and particular care to those endeavors that are not well understood or those which could easily be misinterpreted. Our R&D endeavors to survey and assess Earth resources from airborne and space vehicles are among those that require special and continuing attention.

The gathering of information about the earth and oceans by observation from aircraft or satellites promises lucrative returns in terms of things for people. On the other hand, the gathering of information from air or spaceborne vehicles could be construed as a violation of a nation's sovereignty, an invasion of domestic privacy, a violation of property rights, or infringements upon other personal liberties or governmental prerogatives.

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Downgraded at 3 year  
intervals; declassified  
after 12 years

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We must therefore find ways by which aeronautic and space science, engineering, and technology can be fully utilized in the interest of mankind without undue infringement upon personal or governmental privileges, prerogatives, or sensibilities. This obviously is an important but highly complex matter. Satisfactory resolution requires broad, sympathetic understanding and positive harmonious cooperation by many agencies of government here at home, and highly sensitive negotiations abroad. These delicate endeavors must not be made more difficult by innocent but untimely or unknowing utterances or actions by the scientists, engineers, technicians, and managers whose competence is needed if this nation is to use its science, engineering and technology to produce useful things for people everywhere.

Data that can be collected by observation from aircraft and satellites conceivably could be of great but as yet not fully determined value to many agencies of government, to commercial interests that deal in earth and ocean resources, and of some value at least to virtually every agency that utilizes knowledge of conditions and circumstances on Earth and in its atmosphere. Extensive R&D programs are of course required to learn just what useful data can in fact be gathered. How the data so gathered will be used by the various governmental and commercial agencies is of course not yet appreciated.

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The functions and responsibilities of the many interested governmental agencies are not clearly defined and often overlap. Keen competition can also be expected among the various commercial interests. NASA is already involved with governmental agencies and it can expect to become involved with commercial agencies. Sorting out the capabilities and responsibilities of the various interested governmental agencies and their interrelationships with commercial interests will be complex and time-consuming.

NASA's role in these endeavors are those that accrue by virtue of its being one of the nation's principal R&D organizations. In the field of earth resources sensing, it is NASA's responsibility to conduct research and to apply scientific engineering and technological competence to achieve the greatest return from airborne and space surveys.

We have no stated responsibilities for gathering data with respect to the earth and oceans, for processing, distributing, or utilizing such data except as necessary to measure our success or failure in our R&D endeavors. Receiving, processing, correlating, evaluating, developing, and distributing useful information from data gathered from the air and space logically are functions of agencies of government other than NASA.

It is important that NASA personnel understand the limits of our mission and that their publications and public statements reflect this understanding. It is also important that our actions and statements show full consideration for the sensibilities of sovereign states, agencies of our own government, commercial interests, and individual citizens.

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To facilitate pursuit of R&D programs in the Earth Resources Survey area, and as a means of avoiding or at least minimizing the likelihood of offending sensibilities at home and abroad, Mr. Webb has asked this office to exercise leadership in establishing a review procedure whereby each project in ERS is examined prior to its initiation and before any public disclosures are made. Each proposed project will be reviewed by persons representing appropriate disciplines and by those knowledgeable of sensibilities of the various agencies that will likely become substantially involved or affected by the project during its R&D phase and subsequently.

It is important that this review procedure not be construed or allowed to become an unnecessary constraint on initiative or effective management of on-going projects. It should be recognized as a necessary precautionary measure designed both to avoid foreseeable pitfalls and to obtain needed cooperation and support from individuals and from operational agencies of government for endeavors that could be of great importance to the U. S.

Procedures for preparing and submitting publications, public statements, and proposed projects for review will be published shortly.

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