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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

January 5, 1968

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W-6*

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX *akf*

SUBJECT: NBC Space Special

BACKGROUND:

Tonight NBC will present a one hour documentary on space. Apparently OSD/PA had agreed to cooperate with NBC by releasing some space information in its connection. Mr. Barfield, of DDR & E, advised that in lieu of a requested interview, Dr. Foster had provided written answers to a set of questions submitted by NBC in connection with this program. I am not aware of the content of material released or of the exact terms and conditions attached to any information which was released. However, to protect OSD interests, OSD/PA had requested a review of the military space portion prior to the public showing. I understand NASA made the same stipulation.

STATUS:

Late yesterday afternoon Mr. Barfield called to ask if I would review the film footage with him. He said the material was not yet in the building but would be in shortly. He later called to say it would be in tomorrow (this morning). This morning, Howard Barfield and Capt Lobdell (USN) of DDR & E and Major Hermann and I reviewed the film. It contained the following areas of concern as regards national policy concerning U.S. satellite activity:

- A. A complete mosaic of Peru which could generate antagonism by Peruvians and other foreign countries concerning U.S. satellite mapping photography.
- B. Discussion, with animations, of military operational satellites, e.g.
  - 1. Reconnaissance satellites now cover 100% of the Soviet Union and Red China.
  - 2. Will revolutionize warfare by keeping tabs on

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troop and military activity, missiles in silos.

C. MOL was characterized as:

1. Keeping tabs on ships at sea
2. Conducting radio voice intercept
3. Having an infrared capability

*D-5*

D. Possible future uses of military manned space stations is discussed with emphasis on:

1.
2. Disarming satellites

A broad statement was made that the DOD intended a considerable build-up of military space activity in the 1970's.

It was apparent that NBC chose to use considerable speculative material concerning the U.S. military satellite programs and MOL which has been in the various trade journals and news media over the past few years. The inaccuracies of the animations and presentations convinced me that information released by DOD had not been used.

A short discussion ensued after the review and we concluded, and so informed Cdr. E.R. Roeder, OSD/PA, that this was not an accurate representation of the DOD space program, past, present or future, and that DOD could not condone the presentation. I am not sure what action OSD plans to take with NBC.

RECOMMENDATION:

I do not believe it is advisable or possible to interfere in any way with the scheduled telecast or content of the material to be presented. However, I believe that some representative of DOD, possibly Mr. Goulding, should advise NBC of the conclusions of our review discussed above. We are advising you of this situation to prepare you for any possible queries or contacts by Mr. Goulding.

*Harvey Cohen*  
**HARVEY COHEN**  
 Major, USAF  
 Dep Asst for Security  
 NRO Staff

*Posthumous 55 Jan*

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Amy*

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10:00 P.M., 5 January 1968

Channel 4 - WRC-TV

NBC Report: Tomorrow's World - Beyond the Sky

First program in a series of four scientific documentaries examines the future in space as far as it can be predicted by scientists living today. Man's development of the Moon, concepts for moon colonies and further thrusts into space will be explored. An exclusive Soviet film will detail how some Russians view the prospect of moon colonies.