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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE NRO STAFF

**May 12, 1969**

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT:  BOB Request for NRL Briefing

Mr. Sorrels, who works for Mr. Fischer in the Bureau of the Budget, has asked for a briefing on the POPPY Program, to be given by the NRL.  You will recall that within the BOB, there is an office under Mr. James Clark whose expressed purpose in life is to "monitor" the NRP.  This office consists of about five people and is headed by Mr. Fischer.

In the past and at the DNRO's direction, I have accepted these requests to visit field units and have made the necessary arrangements.  Our instructions to the field have always established the requirement for a knowledgeable escort, have not allowed any budgetary discussions and have required that an exit de-briefing be sent back to SAFSS.  This procedure has worked quite well.  However, I begin to feel the necessity to draw the line.

Mr. Sorrels, who is a bright young man (Ph.D., Rhodes Scholar, etc) and also a likeable chap, has placed himself in the role of an expert and I believe it fair to say that as we educate him he becomes the BOB advisor in technical and requirements matters impacting the NRP.  Charley Sorrels does not have a technical background; however, he is the young gentleman, for instance, who provided the greatest input to the recent BOB-CIA and BOB-White House exchanges.  Actually, it is surprising to me that the BOB can afford a man of Sorrels' qualifications to work full time on NRP matters, or finds it necessary to do so.

I am hard put to say that all of this is wrong.  However, I do believe that we ought to have greater control over this situation.  I raise this point now since I am certain that the

GAMBIT  EARPOP  DORIAN

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BOB "Office for NRP Matters" is preparing itself for an ExCom issue on SIGINT, i.e., the need for ⬚ follow-on and a question on the continuation of POPPY and the P-11 Program ⬚

I believe that, in almost all NRP matters, the NRO Staff can provide BOB with the information required and appropriate for their actions. It should be a rare circumstance when BOB officials find it necessary to visit contractors and field organizations. During the recent round of issues, the BOB did not add much clarity when they introduced EKC claims of future GAMBIT resolution into the DORIAN papers. It has also become true that a BOB visit to the field is disruptive and fills the troops with foreboding.

Therefore I suggest that the Staff should accept the responsibility to work with BOB as required. We would dis-courage further BOB visits to contractors and field organiza-tions for purposes of general education. When BOB wishes to identify an issue as requiring specific BOB staff investiga-tion, they should describe the issue to you and request approval for investigative visits. Mr. Schlesinger is the right level in BOB to make such requests of you. When you approve a BOB request, your Staff will then make all necessary arrangements.

I guess what I'm saying is that we should stop this nonsense of the BOB staff running through your programs and your contractors, and generally acting like the GAO or self-appointed IG's within NRO areas of interest. In addition there should be some control over their visits to SORS and COMIREX. Allow them complete access to the Staff and only by a formalized Schlesinger-to-McLucas route will any contacts with our field units, contractors, etc, be arranged.

I have attempted to draft a letter from you to Mr. Schlesinger establishing such a procedure.

THIS IS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP —
WE STILL HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM
WITH BOB ON PROGRAM AND COST
FACTS VERSUS THE DELIBERATE
DISTORTIONS THEY CHOOSE TO USE
IN ISSUES.

Russell A. Berg
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

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