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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

April 19, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Canadian Proposed Registration Convention

On April 14 I accompanied Mr. Dwayne Anderson to the State Department where members of State were meeting with Canadian representatives to discuss the Canadian initiative for registration of space objects. Mr. Hosely Handyside, Mr. Frank Perez, Lt Col Dick Campbell, and Mr. John Armitage were present from State. Mr. David Cooper, who is the Canadian representative to the UN Legal Subcommittee represented the Canadians and was accompanied by Mr. Seymour.

Based upon Mr. Spiers' recent conversation with the Canadian Ambassador, the U.S. reservations to the proposed initiative were understood by both parties. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify for the Canadians the reasons for the U.S. objections. The discussion centered primarily about the amount of detail which would be required under Section II, and the Canadians' reasons for asking for such detail versus the U.S. reservations about furnishing it. The bulk of the U.S. argument was presented by Mr. Anderson. The Canadians backed off considerably in many of their positions and offered interpretations which would considerably facilitate reporting of space objects. For example, they readily agreed that reporting could be after-the-fact and not before-the-fact; that orbital parameters could be limited to those elements of information now furnished in the monthly report to the United Nations; that descriptions of objects in space could be very gross, and not truly indicative of their size, exact shape or mission.

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The tone of the meeting was cordial and informal. In concluding, Mr. Handyside pointed out that there are parties in the U.S. Government that seriously object to any space object registration convention, and question the need for it. The Canadians replied that they are well aware of this and, while they did not expect their proposal to be readily accepted, still believe that it is required. They base their argument in large part on the fact that the Space Liability Convention was recently signed and they feel that the Registration Convention is needed in order to make the Liability provisions workable.



FREDERICK L. HOFMANN
Lt Colonel, USAF

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