~~TOP SECRET~~

~~IST~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

14 00024402D

THE NRO STAFF

23 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: De-Control of "the fact of" Satellite Reconnaissance

Mr. Reber saw Mr. Helms on 20 June and briefed General Berg, Dr. Flax, and me today on his experiences. He said that after talking for about three minutes he was challenged by the DCI, who said, "Just what terrible things will happen to the NRO if this decontrol goes through? I've had a whole series of special pleaders march through telling me the world is going to end. What specific problems do you see, Jim?" To which, Mr. Reber says he had no reply.

Dr. Flax told us, then, that he had seen Mr. Vance yesterday and had briefed him, hurriedly, on the disclosure problem. Mr. Vance said that change was inevitable, that "this too must change," and that we must learn to accommodate to change. Dr. Flax interprets this as perhaps being based on "a signal from the White House." He then told Mr. Vance that NRO management would certainly be much more cumbersome outside the BYEMAN environment. Mr. Vance looked surprised and said, "The management must not be allowed to change."

There is a consensus that there is no point in fighting this problem. I do not understand how the defeatist attitude developed. We have not one shred of hard data re Restow, "the White House," or inexorable forces beyond our control. Yet, there seems to be an air of relief on the part of persons who advance this hypothesis. Is the community actually tired of shoring up BYEMAN security? Is five years best one can expect as the lifetime of any special security arrangement? What are the motives/pressures?

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOO DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO. Internal

COPY_____ OF_____ COPIES

PAGE_____ OF_____ PAGES

This has been a baffling month, on the security front.   Perhaps the next move should be via NASC or Kohler to the summit; it would certainly be the final move!

PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF