

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

31 August 1965

SUBJECT: NASA Gemini (GT-5) Photography

On 30 August 1965, Major Francis L. Lisciotti from this office, in the capacity of advisor to Colonel William Coleman, the DOD public affairs representative at the NASA Manned Space Flight Center, Houston, Texas, made a partial review of GT-5 photography taken with a 70 MM Hasselblad camera. Necessary facilities for measuring ground resolutional values were not available but a cursory evaluation did not indicate any of the photography viewed (which was duplicated photography) was finer than 100 ft of ground resolution.

Colonel Coleman suggested to officials at the MSF Center that all photography of foreign territories be withheld from public release until the matter could be reviewed by higher authorities. A total of six photographs were initially approved for public release; three of which were actually released to the press during Major Lisciotti's visit to the Center. The areas involved in the six photographs are as follows:

1. Los Angeles - San Diego coastline area
2. West Coast of Florida - Tampa area
3. Moroccan coastline showing unusual cloud pattern (vortex)
4. East coast of Florida - showing Cape Kennedy
5. Reefs in the Bahama Islands
6. California - the Saltonsea Imperial Valley

Other photography viewed by Major Lisciotti but not released included the Nile Valley area, Cuba, and the Tibetan Plateau.

On the morning of 31 August 1965 I telephoned Mr. Floyd Sweet of NASA and advised him that a partial, somewhat cursory review of the NASA Hasselblad photography by Major Lisciotti had confirmed the earlier opinion expressed by Dr. McMillan to Admiral Boone and Mr. Hilburn of NASA, that from the standpoint of ground resolutional value, public release of this photography would represent no security problem to the program managed by this office.

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I further advised, by way of an official suggestion, that it might be prudent if all such photography of foreign territories were cleared with the Department of State on a country-by-country basis prior to public release, particularly any photography of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, Cuba, France or French Territories, Egypt, Israel, Indonesia, Sino-Indian border or Tibet.

Mr. Sweet advised that he would discuss the suggestion with appropriate NASA officials.


LOUIS F. MAZZA
Chief Security Officer
NRO Staff

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