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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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THE NRO STAFF

10 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. NAKA

SUBJECT: Imagery Satellite Scheduling for SALT-Related Coverage

The attached draft was placed in final form and submitted to Dr. Steininger and Mr. Duckett. Mr. Denny chose this routing since Mr. Duckett had asked the question for Mr. Helms and so he was replying to the DCI using the same channels.

We have been able to have COMIREX exclude Community efforts to include more explicit instructions for launching Mission 4336. This approach retains the options for scheduling for the NRO.

George F. Smith, Jr.
GEORGE F. SMITH, JR.

Attachment

Memo dated 8 May 1972

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COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

8 May 1972

MEMORANDUM

Steininger
Duckett

SUBJECT : Imagery Satellite Scheduling for SALT-Related Coverage

REFERENCE: COMIREX-D-14.2/11, 20 April 1972

1. At its 4 May 1972 meeting the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation reviewed the present status of coverage and the current imagery satellite launch schedule in the context of assuring coverage related to possible SALT monitoring needs over the next several months. The Committee specifically examined the question of establishing a back-up capability, on standby status, against the contingency of excessive delay or unsuccessful operation of KH-9 Mission 1203 currently scheduled for 28 June launch.

2. In its discussion, COMIREX considered the status of present community holdings of satellite coverage on SALT-related objectives along with the substantive intelligence considerations and operational factors bearing on future collection, as outlined in Tab A. The Committee also noted that the NRO's present launch schedule projection, as of 4 May, stands as follows:

- a. KH-8 Mission 4335--17 May
(27-day mission)
- b. KH-4 Mission 1117--23 May
(19 days)
- c. KH-9 Mission 1203--28 June
(45 days)
- d. KH-8 Mission 4336--August
(27 days)

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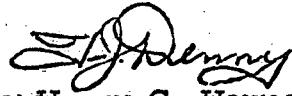
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3. On balance, it was the Committee's consensus that:

a. The presently scheduled launch dates, as given above, for Missions 4335, 1117 and 1203 should be maintained.

b. For purposes of establishing a back-up capability for Mission 1203 in the July time-frame, a KH-8 high-resolution vehicle rather than a KH-4 is preferable.

c. The NRO is requested to plan to use Mission 4336 as a back-up to Mission 1203, with the capability of launching that KH-8 mission at the earliest possible date in July.


Henry C. Howard
Acting Chairman, COMIREX

Attachment
Tab A

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Tab A

Outline
of
Factors Considered

1. Present Status of Imagery Coverage. As noted in the COMIREX 20 April 1972 review of SALT collection requirements for the NRO (reference), collection against this problem has received priority emphasis on imagery satellite missions over the past year. Since January, KH-9 Mission 1202 (20 January - 28 February) provided good area search coverage and this has been supplemented by results from KH-4 Mission 1116 (19 April - 8 May). KH-8 Mission 4334 (17 March - 10 April) also achieved considerable high-resolution coverage of key SALT-related target installations and facilities.

2. Coverage Objectives and Prospects Under Present Schedule. In the course of continuing COMIREX-NRO exchange, the following SALT-related tasking objectives and operational rationale already have been established for the immediately upcoming missions, as follows:

a. 4335 (17 May - 13 June). Already coordinated community targeting guidance to the NRO for this mission places high priority on coverage of all SALT-related COMIREX targets. As presently scheduled in response to community guidance, the 27-day mission will span the period preceding and following the President's Moscow visit and is expected to provide coverage on a large percentage of the SALT targets.

b. KH-4/1117 (23 May - 11 June). While recognizing the operation of this mission concurrently with Mission 4335 as a non-optimum arrangement, COMIREX has judged the operational considerations and cost factors involved in terminating the KH-4 program, as set forth by the NRO in selecting this schedule, to be overriding. Further, the NRO states that any delay beyond the present

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Tab A

23 May date for launching 1117 would result in an equivalent postponement of Mission 1203's launch. As presently scheduled, Mission 1117 will be programmed during and immediately following the President's visit to provide supplemental area search coverage in support of SALT needs similar to those programmed for Mission 1116.

c. KH-9/1203 (28 June - 12 August).

In view of vehicle test results to date, the NRO reports high confidence that the 28 June scheduled launch date will be met. Successful launch and return of this planned 45-day mission's four buckets will provide extensive, updated coverage on targets related to all aspects of the SALT problem. The community considers it vital for SALT monitoring that coverage of the quality and quantity provided by the KH-9 system be available during the July-August period presently scheduled for 1203's operation.

3. Back-up Options for Mission 1203. In view of the importance of assuring SALT coverage capability in the July-August period, COMIREX agreed that specific advance arrangements should be made for a standby/back-up imagery satellite mission available in this period against any contingency such as an extended launch delay or unsuccessful operations for KH-9 Mission 1203. In this connection, the Committee considered the following options:

a. Deferring the 23 May scheduled launch of KH-4 Mission 1117 and holding it as 1203's back-up. While the NRO indicated this option to be technically feasible, it would involve additional funds (on the order of one million dollars per month beyond 30 June) and call for extensive administrative re-negotiation.

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Tab A

b. Designating KH-8 Mission 4336, presently scheduled for August, as 1203's back-up and establishing the capability to launch it at the earliest possible date in the event Mission 1203 is unavailable.

4. In weighing these options, it was the Committee's consensus that the primary need would be for high-resolution coverage in the July-August period and therefore:

a. KH-8, rather than KH-4, was the preferred candidate for back-up to 1203.

b. Option b. in paragraph 3. above would be recommended.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 27, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RUSH

SUBJECT: SALT-Related Photographic Coverage

I have had my staff prepare for you a talking paper on our photographic coverage status for SALT-related targets from September 1, 1971 to the present with a projection through the President's visit to Moscow. You might find it useful for your Verification Panel meeting on April 27.

John L. M. Lucas
John L. McLucas

Attachment

Talking Paper on NRO Photo
Satellite Coverage of
SALT-Related Targets
w/Tabs A-E

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