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

THE NRO STAFF

October 28, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Recovery of Space Objects

Following the decision to contact the British Embassy regarding the space objects, I contacted Mr. Eagleburger, OSD(ISA), and asked his advice on how best to proceed on the matter. He offered his assistance in contacting [redacted] [redacted] who is a personal friend.

I related Mr. Eagleburger's offer to Lt Col Hofmann who in turn briefed Gen Bradburn on this alternative. Gen Bradburn agreed that this was a good course of action.

An appointment was arranged by Mr. Eagleburger and he and I visited [redacted] and the Embassy Chief Scientist [redacted] both TK cleared. Mr. Eagleburger led off the conversation by explaining in general terms why we were there. I continued the discussion in a forthright manner explaining our suspicions as to the nature of the objects and that we were desirous of obtaining the objects for examination in the U.S. as discreetly and as quickly as possible. [redacted] indicated a high degree of support for us and said that there would be no difficulty in securing cooperation in the return of the objects. He expressed some concern regarding that actual mechanics of the transfer of the material to U. S. custody. He said that he would arrange for a contact to be established, probably the Director of British General Intelligence who would coordinate matters discreetly for the British. He

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promised that I would be contacted as soon as possible regarding our contact point in England. We also agreed that it would not be prudent at this time to instigate a search for any further objects from the space vehicle which may have impacted until it was confirmed that the objects were part of a reconnaissance satellite. The meeting went very amiably with a spirit of cooperation indicated.

As we were returning in the car, Mr. Eagleburger suggested that we make every effort to react quickly once contacts have been established. Following return to the Pentagon, I called Mr. Cohen on the West Coast asking that General Bradburn contact me at his convenience. I also briefed Dr. McLucas on the current status.

Later in the day of the 26th, I received a call from a [redacted] who requested that I visit him at the Embassy later in the afternoon. We conferred from 1600 until about 1630. He informed me that a [redacted] who is also TK cleared, would be returning to the UK on Saturday, October 28. [redacted] would be briefed on our desires to obtain possession of the objects with utmost discretion. [redacted] would then relay this information to the Deputy Head of British Military Intelligence in London. Tentative plans were also made to return the objects via a British courier aircraft which ferries TK material back and forth between the UK and the US. [redacted] asked me to provide specific location information of the objects in Farnborough. I agreed to this plan. [redacted] frequently mentioned the British desire to assist us in any manner possible and that [redacted] was lending his prestige to the project.

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Following a conversation with General Bradburn and Lt Colonel Hofmann on Friday, I called Irving Rzepnick at his office in London and requested that he provide me information as to the location at Farnborough. I also asked Rzepnick to be available in case he might be needed as a technical consultant, informing him that General Allen had authorized this. I further passed along General Bradburn's request that we obtain

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data regarding any tests conducted to date and memoranda which may have been written concerning the discovery of the objects.

Later Mr. Rzepnick called back with the Laboratory Chief's name, the building number and room number at Farnborough where the objects were located. Mr. Rzepnick asked [redacted] the Laboratory Chief, to collect all the data on the tests which were available. [redacted] told Mr. Rzepnick that he would try and gather all the pieces and data together and would await further contact. I passed this information along to [redacted] for his briefing with [redacted]

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Following a telephone call regarding a cover story, which had been requested by [redacted], and from Lt Colonel Hofmann, I called Rzepnick again and thanked him for his participation and requested him to divulge nothing beyond the fact that the objects were a part of a US experiment and no other information was available. Rzepnick replied that he understood. I also passed this information to [redacted] who accepted the story as being adequate for the moment.

Based upon another conversation with Lt Colonel Hofmann, at General Bradburn's direction, I briefed Dr. McLucas in order to update him on the matter and also suggested that Dr. McLucas call Ambassador Johnson to apprise him of our activities through military channels only. I suggested to Dr. McLucas that he request Ambassador Johnson to hold this information personally without apprising his own staff in view of the fact that we had decided to pursue military channels only and had not brought in State Department. Dr. McLucas said he would call Ambassador Johnson and understood the manner in which we had decided to proceed.

Finally, [redacted] called later in the day to inform me that his conversation with [redacted] had been highly satisfactory and that [redacted] himself would be unable to stay with the matter in London but would brief the Deputy Intelligence Chief in London who would handle the matter. In order to lend legitimacy to the US interest, [redacted] recommended that a DIA Liaison Officer

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in London act the part of "an interested American" in accompanying the British authorities to Farnborough to retrieve the objects. I agreed to this but stressed that we would not want the matter coming back channel to DIA and that the DIA Liaison Officer should be cautioned to handle this discreetly and exclusively. [redacted] responded by saying this was completely possible to do.

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It appears at this stage that the matter will be handled discreetly and smoothly. With all luck the objects should be returned on the British courier aircraft on Friday, November 3. I have requested that the boxes be tagged for the attention of Mr [redacted] at NPIC so that the objects may remain in TK channels over the next weekend.

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*Harold S. Coyle, Jr.*  
HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.  
Major, USAF

*[Handwritten mark]*

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