

~~TOP SECRET~~

TALENT

KEYHOLE/COMINT

HANDLE VIA

BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM~~US~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

29 September 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR ICPC SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning

REFERENCE: Your memo, subject as above, dated 28 Sept 1970

I can only address the NRO Satellite Contingency Plan aspects of this DEFSMAC request for a BYEMAN message address slug. In that arena, an explicit message address would greatly facilitate communications between the Satellite Operations Center (SOC) and DEFSMAC during an actual or exercise satellite contingency situation. DEFSMAC, under the NRO Satellite Contingency Plan, functions as a 24-hour-per-day intelligence command post for the NRO.

At present our only rapid and secure communications with DEFSMAC are one green (KH-3) and two grey (NSA) phone circuits. These are busy circuits and often it is not possible to get out on any of the three--this may be acceptable for administrative messages, but it is not for the critical operational flow which can arise under the Contingency Plan.

I have visited DEFSMAC recently and have observed their considerable preparations for certification as a BYEMAN-secure space. They are in the BYEMAN world as much as they are in the TALENT KEYHOLE and COMINT worlds, where they already have their own discreet addresses, and it is fictitious that they must be addressed by means of an internal handling instruction for BYEMAN matters rather than their own BYEMAN slug. This situation has caused a number of nondeliveries of SOC messages to DEFSMAC in the past.

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In summary, the present method of delivering BYEMAN messages to DEFSMAC with an internal handling instruction is deleterious to their proper functioning in support of the NRO Satellite Contingency Plan, and I strongly recommend they be issued an official BYEMAN message address slug.

Thomas H. Curry
THOMAS H. CURRY
Commander, USN
Analysis Branch

Attachment

Ltr, 24 Sept 70 (BYE-19377-70)

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