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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 25, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RUSH

SUBJECT: A Baseline for SALT

General Furlong has relayed to me your desire that the NRO should do whatever is necessary to establish a baseline in expectation of an agreement from SALT in the next month or so. I, too, have been concerned with a SALT baseline for some time. Two years ago, I asked the USIB for guidance.

The Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX) and the SIGINT Committee (these are the USIB committees which generate formal collection requirements for our NRO satellites) have already given us clear guidance on long-term collection requirements for SALT. This guidance says that the SALT-related activities are included within the collection requirements already established by USIB. I have no difficulty with that idea; but I have raised the issue once more, in a short-term context, just to make sure we don't overlook some opportunity for careful delineation of a line of position at the time of a SALT agreement.

The COMIREX responded on April 20, 1972 that CORONA Mission 1116 (launched April 19, 1972) would be used to cover collection for early May. ████████████████████████████████████

It may be of interest for you to know that in September 1971 we flew CORONA Mission 1115 principally to provide a SALT verification baseline. The collection requirements were reviewed for priority collection on all subsequent missions ████████████████████████████████████

I think it would be helpful for you to discuss your concern with Dick Helms, just to lend emphasis to our inquiry,

CORONA ███████████

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which is in our normal (and highly effective) working
channels with USIB.

John L. McLucas
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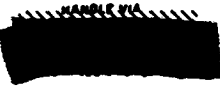
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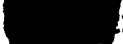
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