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

THE NRO STAFF

September 22, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GOTTSCHLING

SUBJECT: Voice of America Broadcast on Reconnaissance Satellites

On September 20, I contacted Mr. Handyside of the State Department regarding the VOA broadcast of August 26, which extensively commented on U. S. photo reconnaissance satellite capability. He told me that he would check out the broadcast and find out who was responsible for approving the script.

Mr. Handyside called back on September 21 to report that the VOA broadcast was essentially an interview with Phil Klass which in their estimation was timely in view of the on-going SALT ratification proceedings. Mr. Handyside had spoken with a Mr. Joe Hansen, the man responsible for setting VOA broadcast policy. Mr. Hansen had apparently been unaware, even though he has TK clearance, that the subject of our national means of verification was not to be publicly discussed. Hansen told Handyside that VOA had considered that Klass's observations were in the public domain and that there was no breach of security involved.

I reiterated to Handyside the need for people such as Hansen to be made fully aware of national policy and that the question of public domain information being authenticated by an official U.S. news organization is of very grave

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concern to this organization. Mr. Handyside said that he understands this very clearly and will contact Hansen again to insure that this kind of broadcast does not occur again in the future.

I think that the CIA should generate a letter for Mr. Helms' signature to the Head of the USIA which would strongly admonish the USIA Staff and reiterate the seriousness of this apparent abuse of national policy and official authentication of sensitive information.


Major, USAF

Handwritten initials

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