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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE NRO STAFF

19 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SINGEL

SUBJECT: Review of Proposed Draft

The following comments are submitted and differences of opinion on the basic issues are reflected as footnotes as requested.



Major, USAF
Dep Assistant for Security

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CLASSIFIED  EXEMPT FROM
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE-
GORY OR DECLASSIFY ON NRP DET.

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COMMENTS

Page 3, Paragraph b, last sentence: Change to read
". . . can differentiate between the "official" and the
"speculative" material."

Page 4, Paragraph e, first sentence: Change to read
". . . may satisfy additional needs within their disciplines
and interests beyond those already identified."

Page 4, Paragraph f: Change second sentence to read:
"The U.S. policy of not acknowledging the "fact of" satellite
reconnaissance and security controls created by classification
of the "fact of" do not allow such candor . . ."

Page 5, first sentence: Change to read: "While many
specific current problems were discussed, it was agreed that
recent changes in the environment have not altered the need
for tight security on the NRP and its activities; however, the
recent publicity about the NRO and the official acknowledgement
of its existence requires that a new public disclosure "cut-off
point" be established. In this regard it was determined that
four issues require resolution. Decisions on the issues which
follow would dictate the current security posture for the NRO
and NRP."

Page 7, end of first paragraph: "Footnote 1. The NRO
Security Staff representative believes it is inadvisable to
authorize the disclosure of the DNRO and the NRO staff identity.
While acknowledgement of the existence of the NRO provides a
shoehorn into the organizational structure, it must be resisted
if the identity and relationships of the program offices are to
be protected. Program A (SAFSP) is particularly vulnerable due
to its overt name and affiliation with launch facilities and
military missile and space activities."

Page 8, first line: Change to read ". . . (PFIAB) which
were reaffirmed as recently as early 1974, and was developed
to assure rapid response to the requirements of the intelligence
community."

HANDLE VIA
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EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 AND 13526
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Page 8, Tenth Line: Add "In summary, the committee believes that security should not be used as a basis for normalizing the NRO."

Page 8, Paragraph b: Change second sentence to read "First it was agreed that any declassification of the "fact of" must be"

Page 9, Second Paragraph: Insert between first and second sentence "The most significant threat is the possibility for a U.N. treaty banning surveillance or reconnaissance from space without the concurrence of the country being surveilled or reconnoitered. Various non-aligned countries, particularly Brazil, have expressed significant sensitivities about space surveillance and intention to press for a treaty."

Page 9, Second Paragraph: Change third and fourth sentences to read "For these reasons, it appears that objections to the declassification of the "fact of" on security grounds be withheld but defer to Dr. Kissinger for the political decision. Since much can be gained by the method of exposing this decision, specific procedures for doing so should be established beforehand."

Page 10, At end of first paragraph: Add "Footnote 2. The NRO Security Staff representative believes other nations could distinguish between the existing "common knowledge" of satellite reconnaissance and an "official" acknowledgement by the government, even if that acknowledgement occurs only by confirmation of that fact by official records."

Page 12, Paragraph 7.a.: Add "Footnote 3. The NRO Security Staff representative does not recommend authorization to acknowledge DNRO or NRO Staff identity and recommends the declassification and disclosure "cut-off line" be made here. This recommendation is predicated upon a belief that additional authorized disclosures about the NRO and its activities within the government to an uncontrollable degree with a resultant intentional but unwitting disclosure of the "fact of." Additionally, identification of the DNRO and NRO Staff (SAFSS) will significantly increase the risk of identification of Program A (SAFSP) and Program Office relationships."

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Page 13, Paragraph d: Add at the end of sentence
". . . briefed on this policy and the continuing need for
strict security be reaffirmed."

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GENERAL [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OF
A SECURITY ORDER 1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DATE
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