

~~TOP SECRET~~

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



April 27, 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL SHOWERS

SUBJECT: General Bennett's Proposal on Decontrol and
Downgrading of Satellite Photography

Dr. McLucas has been asked, by Mr. Packard to comment
on General Bennett's proposal.

In order that Dr. McLucas understand better the current
operation he has asked us to gather for him pertinent
information on several questions which were not, unfortunately,
addressed in the proposal:

1. What influencing factors have changed since
the previous (1967) proposal to alter the compartmentized
control of information?
2. What are the "compartmentation hardships"
being experienced by the DIA in the handling of the products
and information derived from photographic satellites?
3. What are the specific inhibitions that
preclude the effective use of the products in contingency
planning, target material production, and map and chart
preparation.
4. Are there advantages to be gained in the
surfacing of the "fact of" our activities? What is likely
to be the impact of a "downgrading and decontrol" on our
progress in the SALT talks? What are the consequences of
a downgrading and decontrol of satellite photography?

I realize you must be preparing information on aspects
of this issue for other elements of the Department; however,

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I must respond to a number of questions that Dr. McLucas will ask. Consequently, I would ask your views on anything we might do under the present security rules to assist in your objective of providing for the more effective use, by the U & S Commands and the Service field elements, of satellite photographic products. Specifically, is the NRO doing enough? Are we doing more or less than we think?

I would appreciate any information you might provide to assist us in the review of this issue for Dr. McLucas.



LEW ALLEN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director
NRO Staff

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