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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D C

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THE NRO STAFF

August 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Dr. Knapp, IDA

On August 22, 1974, I met with Dr. Harold A. Knapp from the Institute for Defense Analysis. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss in more detail reasons behind Dr. Knapp's request to visit with various people at SAFSP during the week of September 16. Dr. Knapp wished to discuss with the SAFSP people the plans for future improvements on the various NRO systems. This is in relation to a study task which IDA had received from JCS via WSEG. This study appeared to be an extension of an earlier study under which IDA examined the current capabilities of NRO satellite systems to define their capability for meeting WWMCCS JCS requirements. This study has been recently completed and the final report (66043/74/1) is currently being reviewed by the NRO Staff. Permission for IDA to become so involved with NRO systems was granted as a result of a meeting between General Kulpa and General Kent on April 10, 1974. As a result of this understanding, NRO-WSEG cooperation on such studies would be handled on a case-by-case basis and Dr. Knapp and Dr. Randall, IDA, would present at an early date, detailed information to the NRO on the current JCS directed WSEG/IDA study of the feasibility of strategic command and control so that the Staff could properly evaluate WSEG/IDA needs for accesses and special help from the NRO. If this was done, it was done unilaterally with SS-6 and SS-5 was not involved. Nevertheless, it appears that the final report being reviewed by the Staff now would constitute a termination point for further involvement of the WSEG/IDA personnel in NRO affairs under the earlier agreement between General Kulpa and General Kent.

In the JCS memorandum to WSEG (DJSM-807-74, dated June 7, 1974), subject: Study of WWMCCS and WWMCCS Related R&D, WSEG

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was asked to assess the R&D efforts on-going in the DOD community in terms of the potential impact on the future capabilities of the WWMCCS (Atch 1). The JCS asked that the study examine the potential of the programs to contribute towards reducing the presently identified WWMCCS deficiencies and to meeting the objectives as stated in the WWMCCS Objectives Plan. As a result of the JCS tasking, WSEG asked IDA to perform the study (Atch 2).

When I asked Dr. Knapp how such a study would apply to the NRO systems, he provided the following explanation. Under the previous study the operating capabilities of the NRO systems were defined as they could apply to the nuclear attack options scenarios of the JCS. For example, if a particular scenario called for U.S. attack of Soviet forward aircraft staging areas to show U.S. resolve in a particular situation, NRO systems along with other information sources, would be tasked to relay back to the National Command Authorities, in as near-real-time as possible, information relating to the success of the mission. Under this new study, however, Dr. Knapp would be looking at the future R&D planning philosophies of NRO systems in light of predicted future JCS requirements to determine how well these systems would meet the JCS requirements and, incidentally, what system design changes might be recommended for the NRO systems to better meet the JCS requirements.

I explained to Dr. Knapp that since the first IDA study pertained only to additional uses which could be made of NRO satellite data, we had no objections to the study. However, before we allow IDA to have access to NRO future system design considerations, there should be a more formal understanding between NRO and WSEG on exactly what information is needed, specifically, what IDA intends to do with that information, and what role the NRO will play in this study. Therefore, I asked Dr. Knapp if he would arrange to have a letter from WSEG sent to General Kulpa explaining how the first study was accomplished and what plans have been made for the second study. Included in the package should be the TOP SECRET Task Order from OJCS to WSEG on the first study plus the guidance from WSEG to IDA on the conduct of the study. Then for the second

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study, the documentation should include the OJCS tasking to WSEG and the WSEG tasking to IDA. I asked that the summary letter to General Kulpa be classified at the [REDACTED] level so that it could be specific. Dr. Knapp agreed to this and said that he would draft the package and be back to discuss it with us.

This study could well be something that we wish to pursue at a vigorous level from within the NRO. To this extent I do not believe we should turn it off. However, I do believe that the NRO should enter into a more formal agreement with the JCS and perhaps even WSEG as to what the JCS requirements are and what the interfaces of the study should be. Mr. Plummer should officially task General Bradburn to take the lead in this study with participation from OJCS, WSEG and IDA. In no case should IDA and WSEG be allowed to proceed on this study without the direct involvement of the NRO.

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Captain, USAF

2 Attachments
a/s

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