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~~SI~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C



THE NRO STAFF

4 January 1975


MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: NASA-NRO

Following your discussion with Secretary Schlesinger, you asked us for a paper which would discuss the issues facing us today with respect to our relationship with NASA and attach to this discussion documentation which demonstrates the facts behind this evolving relationship. In addition, you asked for a redefinition of reconnaissance and intelligence and an identification of options available to us to clarify the apparent conflict in missions between NASA and NRO. Attached is a point paper which discusses our basic relationship with NASA, identifies the political and technical issues we are facing and lists options available to resolve these issues.

Following is our definition of space reconnaissance. We view reconnaissance from space as being that kind of data gathering activity which can be viewed as being intrusive on another nation's sovereignty. This kind of space reconnaissance should be conducted on a classified basis without acknowledgement by our government. Openly conducted earth observation programs should be only those which would not be viewed as being intrusive and would, therefore, not likely be protested to by other governments. This definition does not place space reconnaissance in the classical sense of military versus economic intelligence.

  
HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.  
Lt Colonel, USAF *Handwritten initials*

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