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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE NRO STAFF

25 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: NRO National Imagery Plan for Satellites

The right hand memorandum is the acknowledgement of our development of a National Imaging Plan for Satellites (NIPS). You will note that a September report on elements of the NIPS is proposed. This, in my view, will consist of a personal discussion between you, Mr. Colby and Dr. Hall. This first meeting will probably outline the general NIPS effort and provide specific comments on elements of the first phase such as the progress of the recently NRO established [REDACTED] Imaging Program.

There would be a definite advantage if such informal discussions on the NIPS, as proposed in September, could be a continuing effort at three to six month intervals, depending upon significant developments within the NIPS.

[REDACTED]

John E. Kulpa, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COLBY, DCI
DR. HALL, ASD(I)**

SUBJECT: NRO National Imaging Plan for Satellites

Last week we discussed my development of the National Imaging Plan for Satellites (NIPS) which I intend to integrate eventually with the SIGINT plan in order to define the total thrust of the NRP in the 1980's.

As a result of our discussions I am proceeding with the first phase of the NIPS. This phase builds upon current NRO projects and programs and is directed primarily at building an adequate base upon which potential system capabilities for the 1980's can be defined. A time phased plan is being developed identifying actions required in the R&D or operations areas. Basic decision points necessary to reach specific objectives considering the technical, economic, and operational feasibility will also be identified.

Upon completion of the first phase I will sponsor a detailed intelligence community evaluation of those alternatives found to be feasible for the 1980's. This will give each element of the community an opportunity to express views on the potential of various alternatives as well as to provide a positive feedback for out year NRP resource allocation decisions.

I will provide you with a progress report on elements of the first phase of the NIPS in September.

J. W. Plummer

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