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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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October 5, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. CHARYK

SUBJECT: NRO

Will you review and give me your comments on the attached paper which Mr. McCone left with Mr. McNamara at this morning's meeting.

As you heard, the paper would introduce a new element, namely a National Reconnaissance Planning Group, into the existing NRO set-up to satisfy the concern expressed by the Killian Board. If this new element will not impede the present NRO operation, which we feel is functioning satisfactorily, Mr. McNamara and I have no objection to the proposal. Before taking a position on it, however, we would like to have the benefit of your views.

Enclosure

*Russell S. Taylor*

1308/62

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Agreement Between

Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence

on

National Reconnaissance Planning and Operations

Definitions:

- NRPG - National Reconnaissance Planning Group
- NRP - National Reconnaissance Program, to consist of all overt and covert satellite and overflight projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping photography and electronic signal collection
- NRO - National Reconnaissance Office
- DNRO - Director, National Reconnaissance Office

Responsibilities:

The National Reconnaissance Planning Group (NRPG), consisting of the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, is responsible for providing policy and program guidance and managerial direction for the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) and for making final determinations in connection therewith which do not require the exercise of higher authority. The Secretary of Defense, as Executive Agent, is responsible for implementing plans and policies developed by the NRPG, and for that purpose has established a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to manage and conduct the NRP in such manner as to insure the most effective utilization of the particular talents, experience, and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency. The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence, designates the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (DNRO), who is responsible for the operation of that office in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

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1. Requirements and Priorities:

The NRO will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal (SIGINT) collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board and will develop the over-all reconnaissance program to satisfy these requirements.

2. Management:

a. The technical management responsibility for all the NRP is assigned to the DNRO. Under this over-all responsibility for NRP, DNRO will utilize existing resources in the following manner:

(1) CIA will be the Executive Agent for DNRO for those covert projects already under its management and such additional covert projects as are assigned to it by the NRPG.

(2) To provide for full use of available capabilities and resources, and to provide for interface with data exploitation equipment development by agencies outside the NRO, personnel of Army, Navy, Air Force, and CIA, will be assigned, on a full-time basis, to appropriate positions within the NRO under the DNRO.

(3) A firm liaison channel between the NRO and the NSA will be established as an adjunct to the technical management structure of signal collection projects, and the conduct of such projects carried out in accordance with the exploitation responsibilities of the NSA.

(4) Planning will encompass maximum utilization of the technical and operational resources of the DOD, the Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA, and the CIA to support all collection programs, including, but not limited to, electronic signal and photographic collection programs.

b. Financial Management:

(1) The DNRO will be responsible for review and approval of the total NRP budget. DOD funds allocated to the NRP will appear as appropriately classified line items in the Air Force budget. For those covert projects for which it has management responsibility under paragraph 2. a.(1) above, CIA will normally include funds in its regular appropriations. If funds are required in addition to such appropriations, NRPG, with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget, may authorize transfers of appropriate

amounts from DOD to CIA. In the event it is assigned such projects prior to obtaining such appropriations, initial funding may be by transfer of such funds from DOD to CIA as NRPG with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget may direct, subsequent funding to be obtained by CIA through normal appropriation channels. On those projects where CIA acts as procurement agent for NRO, the funds will be advanced or reimbursed by DOD to CIA in accordance with the principles of the Economy Act.

(2) DNRO will have responsibility for all NRP contracts in accordance with the assignment of technical management responsibility in paragraph 2. a. Consistent with paragraph 2. a. (1), CIA will be the Executive Agent of the DNRO, responsible for administering procurement and contracting for covert projects for which it is assigned responsibility under paragraph 2. a. (1), and for covert contracting necessary for the support of overt projects.

3. Security:

In accordance with the basic responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence for protection of intelligence sources and methods, CIA will establish security policy for the NRP, including provision for a uniform system of security control and appropriate delegations of security responsibility.

4. Operations:

a. Scheduling: The mission schedule for all NRP efforts will be the sole responsibility of DNRO, subject to coordination with CIA on covert projects for which it is Executive Agent and the obtaining of appropriate clearances where required from higher authority. Operational control for individual projects under the NRP will be assigned to the DOD or to the CIA by the DNRO in accordance with policy guidance from the NRPG. DNRO will be responsible to assure that mission planning will make full use of all intelligence available in the community.

b. Format: The DNRO will be responsible for the format of the collected NRP product as follows:

(1) Photographic format will include the initial chemical processing, titling, production and delivery to the users as specified by the USIB.

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(2) Electronic signal data format will include the decommutation, conversion, technical correction and reconstruction of the collected signal data to yield a usable collection product. DNRO will deliver the collection product in proper format together with associated data necessary for exploitation, to the NSA or other user as specified by the USIB.

c. Engineering Analysis: The DNRO will be responsible for engineering analysis of all collection systems to correct the problems that exist on the operating system as well as to provide information for new systems. In connection with covert projects for which CIA is Executive Agent, this responsibility will be carried out under the supervision of CIA.

5. The DNRO is responsible for advanced plans (post CY-1962) in support of the NRP. In view of the DCI's major responsibility to the NSC for all intelligence programs, all NRO advanced planning will be coordinated with CIA.

6. Public releases of information will be the responsibility of the DNRO subject to the security guidance of CIA.

7. The Deputy Director (Research), CIA, will be responsible for seeing that the participation of CIA in this Agreement is carried out.

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John A. McCone  
Director of Central Intelligence

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Roswell L. Gilpatric  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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