

DATE: 25 Feb 77

SIGNATURE _____	TICKLE _____
APPROVAL _____	RETURN TO _____
COMMENTS _____	FILE _____
COORDINATION _____	MTG. WITH <u>SEC DEF</u>
ACTION _____	SUSPENSE _____
INFORMATION <u>X</u>	_____

OMB RELATIONSHIP

- Copy of ltr to SecDEF
- ORIGINAL DELIVERED LAST NIGHT

BY 

COMMENTS/DIRECTION:

To: 

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

24 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: NRO Relations With OMB - ACTION MEMORANDUM

Over the past several years, the Office of Management and Budget has been requesting increasingly detailed information on the National Reconnaissance Program. The NRO does not have the manning to provide the level of detail requested. The amount of information to be provided to OMB and the mechanism for OMB to obtain such information has been a subject of controversy.

Last fall, prior to Presidential budget submission, these issues culminated with a discussion between Secretary Ellsworth, Mr. Lynn and the President. The immediate problem was resolved to the extent that the Presidential budget was finalized. Further definition of the relationship was deferred.

Secretary Ellsworth established the policy that OMB requests should be submitted, in writing through his office, for any written material. At the present time, OMB is again informally asking for information and requesting permission to visit our facilities. This raises again the Ellsworth policy.

In the past, OMB has been represented at NRP Executive Committee (EXCOM) meetings but not at the more recent Committee on Foreign Intelligence (CFI) meetings. The current Policy Review Committee has not yet addressed the question of OMB participation. The level of information that OMB requires to properly review the NRP budget is no greater than that required by the PRC (CFI or EXCOM), and we have provided this same information to OMB.

Since the NRO is not manned to properly respond to detailed OMB requests, we believe that we should continue with the Ellsworth policy of responding only to written requests approved by OSD until such time that you or the Policy Review Committee decides on an alternate mode of operation. I would like to discuss this issue more fully at our meeting tomorrow.

[REDACTED]

CONCUR:

CC: Harold says he signed original, so. K. He'll discuss w/ Bert Lance.

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS
CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY [REDACTED]
DO NOT DECLASSIFY ON NRP DET.

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Date [REDACTED] 8-77
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CONCUR:

Harold Brown

HANDLE VIA [Redacted] CLASSIFIED [Redacted] EXEMPT FROM [Redacted] GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF [Redacted] EXECUTIVE ORDER [Redacted] DECLASSIFICATION CATE- [Redacted] GRY 582 DECLASSIFY ON RPP DCT.

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