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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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22 January 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: National Reconnaissance Program Briefing

During the past twelve years, the efforts of the National Reconnaissance Office have been directed toward developing and operating a variety of covert satellite intelligence collection systems bearing on strategic issues of national interest. Recent significant advances in the state of the art have made possible satellite reconnaissance systems as sources of near-real-time (NRT) intelligence images with potential tactical applications.

I am sure this possibility, together with the potential available to the Army through the utilization of space technology, is being examined in your space-related research and development programs. Nevertheless, it occurs to me that this might be a good time to update you, your new Chief of Staff, and his principal assistants. An overview of the National Reconnaissance Program with particular emphasis on the NRT imaging, which is due to become operational in 1976, would add the perspective necessary to insure the coordinated effort essential to development of tactical requirements.

My Staff is prepared to brief you, General Abrams, and his principal staff officers at your convenience. For initial planning purposes, a briefing in mid-February is suggested. Colonel John Kulpa, Director of the NRO Staff, will be pleased to work out the details with your point of contact.

[redacted]

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