

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

10/6

[REDACTED]

LT Bradburn
Dr. Naha

[REDACTED]

Shank

For information. Possibly
Dr. McWess would be interested.

[REDACTED]

Agree.

Dr. McL

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Date: 8 OCT

FOR YOUR:

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APPROVAL _____
COMMENTS _____
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~~RELATE WITH:~~ NSAM 156 BUSINESS

Report of visit by [redacted]
[redacted] to state

Return to [redacted]

By [redacted]

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~~1ST NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE~~
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

October 5, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit to Mr. Gathright, State Department,
October 4, 1971

As a follow-up to our request to have the NSAM 156 Committee review the potential impact of the SALT ratification process, I visited Mr. W. E. Gathright at his office. Mr. Gathright is one of Ambassador Johnson's assistants.

Our discussions centered on four general areas:

First, State feels that a review of the ratification impact is necessary and appropriate for the NSAM 156 Committee. Mr. Gathright was not certain as to the general Congressional awareness of the NRP. I explained that key members of the House and Senate followed our activities closely and that these people would likely be central to the minimization of open discussions on US national means of verification of an arms limitation.

Second, Mr. Gathright wondered if the ratification proceedings would be an appropriate occasion for introducing the "fact of" disclosure. I discouraged this thesis on the basis of the political uncertainties concerning the acceptance of ERTS and SKYLAB. I also mentioned the letter that Mr. Packard will send to Ambassador Johnson stating support for the NSAM 156 Committee's caution toward acceptance of the satellite overflight principle.

Third, Mr. Gathright wondered how candid the SALT Delegations have been in discussing national means. I explained that the JCS ACSAN people have told me that there has been

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fairly candid discussion, tangentially, about satellites. It was acceptable to both sides to ambiguously term the collectors "national technical means" without specifically defining the term. This matter was a subject for an early SALT interagency paper, chaired by Ambassador Bohlen.

Finally, I passed two SALT generated papers to Mr. Gathright which discuss the possible forms which a strategic arms limitation could take. I feel that the papers could form a basis for the NSAM 156 review. The JCS ACSAN people feel that there is a high probability of agreements being reached sometime soon after the first of the year.

At the conclusion of our discussion, I offered to assist in the writing of the "strawman" paper following the initial meeting of the working group which will occur shortly.

[REDACTED]

Major, USAF

[REDACTED]

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