

~~TOP SECRET~~



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

THE NRO STAFF

December 14, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL S
DR. NAKA



SUBJECT: Verification Papers

As I have mentioned to you previously, several papers which I have reviewed relative to SALT, which have been drafted by CIA in response to NSC questioning, have expressed an overly optimistic tone (in my view) with regards to verification systems. In the Mobile ICBM and Fixed ICBM papers, we have caused some pessimism to be added so as not to express a totally optimistic view toward the capability of our systems. Specifically mentioned have been the capabilities of [redacted] and NRT. No mention is made of catastrophic failure, limit of resolution and bad weather, and other technical problems which might beset the photo systems.

This morning I reviewed another paper, "Strategic Forces Survivability Study: Verification" which also deals with the SALT environment as well as with the nature of our defensive posture. This paper extolls the virtues of all of our systems, SIGINT included. It makes great claims for the capabilities of the [redacted] and NRT as well as [redacted] systems which are programmed. Although there was some caution interjected in this paper with regards to concealment and subtle upgrading, I feel that the overall tone would lead the National Security Council to place "blind" faith in our ability to be able to collect the information necessary for verification and defensive posture planning.



~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

CONTROL NO. Internal

COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

12/14

~~TOP SECRET~~



If there is some question on funding of NRT for 1975 and of [redacted] then I feel that there must be some further caution exercised in these planning papers.

Recommendation: In your dealings at the high policy level, you should be aware of the optimism being expressed to the National Security Council. In the briefing to Dr. Kissinger some explanation should be made as to the limits of our systems so that false faith will not prevail.



HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Major, USAF



~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION
DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

CONTROL NO. [redacted]
COPY 2 OF 2 COPIES
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES