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26 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR The Secretary of the Navy

SUBJECT: POPPY Project Director for the ~~(S)~~ National
Reconnaissance Office

The basic organizational structure which will be employed for the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office will consist of responsible field level project directors who will be delegated specific tasks for projects of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program. These project directors will be stationed at the most convenient location for the work which they are assigned, and will have a suitable overt, unclassified title to provide proper security. Although located within normal organizational structure, they will actually report directly to the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office. As an example, Major General Greer, located within the Air Force Systems Command at El Segundo, California, is actually directly responsible to me for the development and operation of satellite projects of the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Program. As a cover for this activity, he has an unclassified title of Director of Special Projects, OSAF, and is in charge of a small field extension of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. To insure full availability of necessary resources for these important projects, and to assist in coordination of this effort with other related work, he is also Vice Commander of the Air Force Space Systems Division as an additional duty.

In regard to the POPPY project, I would be pleased to consider your nomination for a suitable person within the Navy who would be the POPPY project director for the ~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office. It would be expected that he will be delegated by the Navy the authority and responsibility to work directly with the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office in a manner similar to that described above for Major General Greer. It is expected that his responsibilities will concern primarily the POPPY payloads and that he will work directly with Maj Gen Greer on matters pertaining to vehicles, boosters, launches, etc., in accordance with instructions from the ~~(S)~~ Director, National Reconnaissance Office. After this person is designated, we can proceed to work out details in regard to security and operating procedures.

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Joseph V. Charyk
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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