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~~US~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE NRO STAFF

June 10, 1969

McL

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Naval Facility

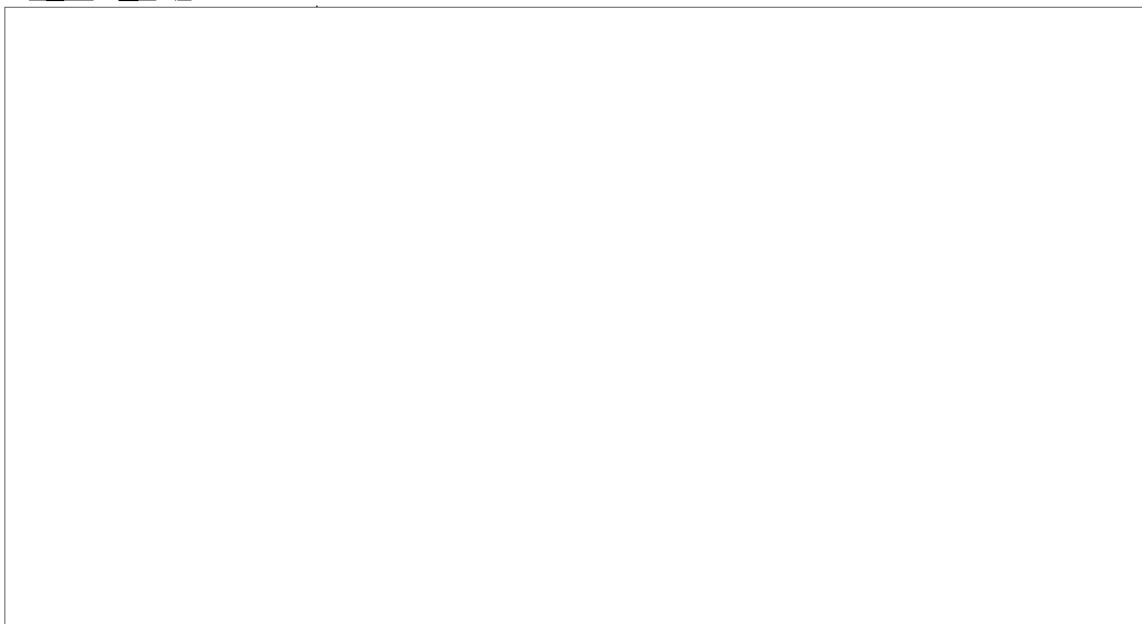


Purpose:

Forward a memorandum from Admiral Harlfinger concerning a
POPPY site



Background:



At present, however, ocean surveillance is not an approved
USIB requirement. The SOC has tasked, on a non-interference
basis, POPPY missions for ocean surveillance, to permit data

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collection and a feasibility determination only. This subject has been discussed at the SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee (SORS) of the SIGINT Committee, and at Tab B is a letter from the Navy to SORS requesting that ocean surveillance be approved as a USIB requirement.

Present Status:

The Navy letter (Tab B) will probably be discussed at the SORS meeting on Wednesday, June 11. We will advise you of any substantive changes in requirements should they develop as a result of the Navy request.

Admiral Harlfinger has sent a memorandum to you concerning the planned facility [redacted] (Tab C). The purpose of the memorandum is to provide background information should the subject of satellite read-out [redacted] come up during Congressional testimony on the Navy facilities package. Testimony is being provided by uncleared members of the Naval Facilities Command. Since possible POPPY site requirements were developed completely in the "black", Admiral Harlfinger's staff anticipates no security problems. In further discussions with the Program C Staff we determined that the phrase "national tasking" in paragraph 2 of Tab C refers to a JCS requirement and is not an allusion to USIB requirements. The Program C Staff affirmed the fact that Admiral Harlfinger is not sponsoring a POPPY site [redacted] however, he desires to have the space and power requirements for a site [redacted] should USIB approve ocean surveillance as a national requirement for NRP collection.

Action Required:

None. We will advise you on the SORS response to the Navy request.

John R. Meceda
JOHN R. MECEDA
Captain, USAF

R.A. Burg

*York
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23 MAY 1969

TAB C

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From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Navy Member SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee
(LCDR J. K. COKEFAIR)

- 1. As Navy Member of the SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee (SORS) you are directed to request from SORS, at the earliest opportunity, authority for Navy to task through appropriate channels the NRP ELINT satellites for Ocean Surveillance support.

T. H. MOORER

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BYE-65659/69

23 MAY 1969

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From: Navy Member SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance
Subcommittee (SORS)
To: Chairman, SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance
Subcommittee

I. SUBJECT: In support of the U. S. Navy responsibility for Ocean Surveillance, as assigned by the JCS, a very high priority requirement exists for inputs to the Navy Ocean Surveillance Information System from the satellites of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). To satisfy this requirement the Navy desires to initiate tasking, through the National Reconnaissance Office, (NRO), of the appropriate satellites of the NRP. The Navy desires to establish with SORS, the SIGINT Committee and USIB the requirement for tasking the NRP ELINT resources. By parallel action the requirement for tasking the NRP photo satellites will be established with the Imagery Collection Requirements Subcommittee, COMIREX and USIB. The initial goal is the development of the necessary lines of communications to insure timely data input to the Ocean Surveillance data base.

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The ELINT satellite input will be directed at locating radiating ships at sea. Present tasking priorities of the NRP ELINT satellites have been considered and the Poppy System, and perhaps others, can be tasked for Ocean Surveillance inputs without interfering with the present tasking. A considerable portion of each satellite revolution is over areas of interest to Ocean Surveillance and not otherwise tasked. Establishing the tasking lines of communications immediately, and working out the various details of reporting, will permit rapid response of the NRP ELINT satellites to any contingency, such as that produced by the Soviet moves in Czechoslovakia or the EC-121 shutdown. The NRO has indicated that it is "interested in determining the response capability of satellite collection in time of crisis"; these preliminary steps will enhance the response capability of the ELINT satellite systems.

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2. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION. The greatly increased Soviet naval activity in many areas of the world has in turn increased the Navy's Ocean Surveillance responsibilities on a world-wide basis. To accommodate these increased responsibilities the Navy has realigned its organizational structure for Ocean Surveillance information management. This realignment is giving the Navy a greater capability to collect, colate, analyze and disseminate Ocean Surveillance information from an increased number of sources utilizing many different sensors. Much of the new Soviet activity is expanding into global areas which cannot now be exploited by conventional platforms and sensors due to various political, geographic and equipment constraints. The requirement for new sensor inputs to cover the new and expanding areas of interest, coupled with the ability to handle an increased volume of sensor inputs, has led the Navy to explore the value of intelligence from the ELINT satellites as an input to the Ocean Surveillance data base.

With approval of the NRO the Poppy System was utilized on a trial basis, to provide locations on Soviet combatant vessels. [redacted] because of its digital data processing capability and geographic location, was assigned this project. In one three month trial period over 100 Soviet combatants were located at sea by the [redacted] of the Poppy System. Where possible these fixes were correlated through other sources and were of sufficient accuracy to be of value in the Ocean Surveillance Information System. While processing the data on the Soviet signals and analyzing the pulses, it was determined that many individual emitters could be identified in addition to [redacted] their location. [redacted]

[redacted] were established through other sources, and these combatants were then located and tracked by inputs from the Poppy System. The minimum time achieved for the location and identification of targets by this system (on an experimental basis) was [redacted]. This has subsequently been reduced to less than [redacted] by removing manual processing procedures and can be further reduced with the introduction of new dedicated procedures. These processing times may be considered "real time" for the case of surface targets.

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From the above trial, it was determined that Poppy information is of great value to the Navy's Ocean Surveillance Information System, especially because of the accuracy and global capability of this system. The trial also indicated that the Poppy System can respond to any requirement for location of detectable radiating platforms at sea.

To further define the geographic areas of interest, the targets of interest, location accuracies and information timeliness for the ELINT satellite support of the Navy Ocean Surveillance Information System the following is provided:

a. Areas of Interest. (NOTE: In response to contingencies, satellite surveillance is desired in various ocean areas. However, particular emphasis and the highest priorities are in those sea areas considered to be "denied areas" or "sensitive areas" by virtue of limitations imposed on surveillance and reconnaissance operations by higher authority. Under present restrictions there are denied and sensitive areas that extend 200 miles seaward from foreign land masses. These denied littoral areas contain many targets of national interest. Also of high priority for ocean surveillance are those areas that can be defined as "inaccessible areas" due to isolation and lack of operating and basing facilities for other reconnaissance platforms.)

The present areas of interest are:

Norwegian Sea
 Baltic Sea
 White Sea
 Barent Sea
 Black Sea
 Arabian Sea
 Indian Ocean
 Eastern Mediterrean Sea

Sea of Okhotsk
 Bering Sea
 Chukchi Sea
 East Siberian Sea
 North Pacific Ocean
 Yellow Sea
 Caspian Sea

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b. Targets of Interest. Primary targets of interest are Soviet Bloc combatants with the highest priority assigned to missile equipped ships.

c. Location Accuracies. Location accuracies for ocean surveillance purposes are the same as the accuracies desirable for EOB. The [redacted] mile accuracy for EOB recently recommended by SORS to USIB in the draft ELINT requirements processing parameters list is satisfactory. It should be noted that for most purposes Ocean Surveillance is akin to EOB work with the targets of interest being constantly moving seaborne radiators.

The average location accuracies of the Poppy system are acceptable. [redacted]

d. Information Timeliness. The information provided by the ELINT satellites is responsive to requirements if a message is filed to the appropriate commander and data base within [redacted] of initial signal detection.

3. REQUESTED ACTION. It is requested that SORS forward to USIB via the SIGINT committee, this Navy request for authority to task, through the NRO as approved by SORS, all of the ELINT satellites of the NRP for Ocean Surveillance purposes. Additional briefings can be arranged ~~through the Poppy Program Manager~~ by the Navy SORS member if required.

Very respectfully,

J. K. COKEFAIR
J. K. COKEFAIR

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IN REPLY REFER TO
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6 JUN 1969



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MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (S)

Subject: [redacted]

1. With the approval of SECDEF Navy is planning a support facility at [redacted]
2. In addition to other missions, it appears that [redacted] is well located for a POPPY ground site to enhance POPPY response to national tasking for Ocean Surveillance and to also partially compensate for the loss of the [redacted]
3. When the [redacted] facility is approved a request will be forwarded to the NRO concerning the proposed POPPY site. Basic planning now underway is taking space and power requirements into consideration.
4. The purpose of this memo is to inform you that at House Armed Services Committee hearings concerning [redacted] reference may be made to the value of the [redacted] as a satellite ground readout site.

F. J. Harpinger
F. J. HARPLINGER, II
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM C

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