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

THE NRO STAFF

August 3, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Ocean Surveillance.

Dr. Frosch has notified us by the memo at TAB A that the Navy wants to look at various sensors for use in ocean surveillance. Therefore, they will need more "black" clearances at various levels of their development activities.

The memo infers the following: the Navy is getting more and more concerned about the Program 749 radar approach. It'll cost a lot of money in a decreasing money market and they like carriers and aircraft, too. They have also been encouraged by the results of POPPY. Therefore, the "white" Navy satellite systems area would like to look more closely at passive sensors such as SIGINT and radiometry. They have reoriented about \$3.5M from the \$9M Program 749 FY 71 budget for studies in this area. This is to be spent under Op 76 (Admiral Moran's) direction at development activities and supporting contractors. Our technology is certainly applicable and the work should be "black."

As you know, we are already working with another part of the Navy (Program C - Adm Harlfinger) on augmentation of POPPY. Program C has just hired a GS-15 to head an advanced plans office in this program.

We have a basic problem. The national versus tactical requirement for ocean surveillance and the related management and fiscal responsibilities are still in a state of

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flux. Some of your recent discussions at the Friday breakfast have established some initial ground rules. However, more discussions are needed at the USIB level and possibly JCS. Until this is really resolved the Navy, in the case of ocean surveillance, is having an internal power struggle. Admiral Harlfinger will continue to use POPPY as the basic system and use his 'black' cell to push ahead. In the meantime, Admiral Moran is trying to pursue ocean surveillance as a service oriented tactical requirement in coordination with the many other OP's in the Navy.

We should not chose sides, but our life would be easier if we had one main interface with the Navy. Historically, this would be Admiral Harlfinger and Program C. This places a space program within a user group. This is similar to the CIA approach. If Admiral Moran took over Program C, all technology, programs, etc., would be within an R&D environment and would be similar to SAFSP. Considering the tactical implications of ocean surveillance, it appears that the Admiral Moran approach makes a little more sense but the argument could go either way. However, from our point of view, one 'black' organization within the Navy would be much easier for security and administrative purposes.

It is recommended that you sign the memorandum on the right to Dr. Frosch and meet with him to discuss the matter in detail.

Robert K. Geiger
ROBERT K. GEIGER
Captain, USN

cc: Dr. Naka

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