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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

29 July 1969

MEMO FOR Capt. S. T. Turner, USN
ROOM 4E 686

SUBJECT: Use of the POPPY ELINT
Satellite System for Ocean
Surveillance

Mr. Packard has reviewed Secretary Chafee's letter of 24 July on this subject. Mr. Packard underlined the sentence "There have been noticeable reductions recently in the intake of some of the Navy's current non-satellite collection systems." He asked if this was correct and if so, the reason for these reductions.

Mr. Packard would also like to have a report on the POPPY ELINT program.

~~EARPDP~~

Roy
Raymond B. Furlong
Colonel, USAF

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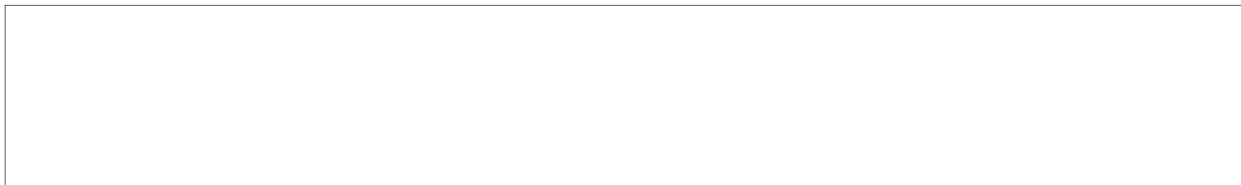
MEMORANDUM FOR CAPT S. T. TURNER, USN

Subj: Recent reduction in intake of Navy's non-satellite collection systems

1. The reduction in the intake of certain intelligence collection systems has decreased considerably the Navy's ability to respond to the National need for location and track information on Soviet missile equipped surface vessels and missile carrying submarines. This reduction in collection has resulted from several causes as outlined below.

a. Soviet naval emission control (EMCON) has continued to become more effective, their use of secure communications has increased steadily and their deployment of significant naval forces into ever greater geographical areas have all combined to overtax our collection capabilities. The impact of these developments on just the HFDF and SOSUS systems has been as follows:

(1) HFDF



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(b) Surface Ships. In recent months the Soviets have tested the use of transmissions in ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship modes. They have also employed a mobile terminal to relay from afloat units to the USSR. The use of such a command and control system negates our conventional HFDF systems as a source of locating information on Soviet combatant units. If employed in certain areas of the world and if used on frequencies that propagate only to medium ranges, these signals will not be intercepted by existing intercept sites. The sites already suffer from deficiencies in spectrum coverage.

(c) Aircraft. In July 1969, two flights of BEAR D aircraft flew into the North Atlantic. In both cases the flights observed HF EMCON and were located only by fixing their transmissions, once they departed radar coverage in the

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(2) SOSUS

Soviet submarines have occasionally avoided detection by SOSUS enroute to patrol station. Their presence on station is indicated only by an intercepted [redacted] transmission. [redacted]

(3) The [redacted] intercept network was originally designed to provide coverage of the North Atlantic and North Pacific. DF accuracy is deficient in the Mediterranean, Philippine Sea and China Sea, all of which are areas where deployed U. S. forces operate. Coverage of the Indian Ocean, South Atlantic and South Pacific is very poor. These are areas into which the Soviets are projecting their sea power.

b. The restrictions imposed on reconnaissance and intelligence collection platforms, after the PUEBBO and EC-121 incidents, keeping them at greater ranges from the lucrative areas of intelligence interest, have also noticeably reduced the overall intelligence take.

2. We are ready to brief Mr. Packard on the POPPY System at anytime and if he so desires a briefing on tactical [redacted] can also be arranged. Point of contact is [redacted] Ox-7-8180.

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