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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

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22 JUL 1969

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MEMORANDUM

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Secretary of the Navy
Subj: POPPY System

1. As you know decisions are being made within DOD to cut back many programs for economy reasons.
2. Those who do not realize the specialized capabilities of the POPPY system often look at it as a system redundant in frequency coverage and location capability.
3. The attached memo will help considerably in preventing possible elimination of the POPPY system due to a misunderstanding of its capabilities.

T.A. Moore

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

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24 JUL 1969

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MEMORANDUM TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

1. The Navy is responsible for Program Direction of the POPPY ELINT Satellite System, a National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) asset. The system is currently tasked against the ABM threat, but is also now proving highly valuable for Ocean Surveillance.

(A) 2. There have been noticeable reductions recently in the intake of some of the Navy's current non-satellite collection systems. There is also the possibility of losing some of our overseas collection sites. Hence, I have had the national inventory of collection systems researched to find means of ensuring a continuing flow of signal intelligence. The Navy POPPY ELINT Satellite System proved to have been not only a prime contributor to our knowledge of the Soviet ABM system, but a prime means of providing vital [redacted] ship locations [redacted] information for Ocean Surveillance. In order to evaluate the system capability for this mission, we requested an engineering test against Soviet [redacted] ships. After six months of data accumulation and correlation POPPY was found to be accurate and timely for our Ocean Surveillance needs and extremely valuable in providing information from areas where we previously had no means of collection.

4. I recently established official tasking of the Navy POPPY system, through NRP channels, and I am utilizing the Ocean Surveillance information for our intelligence data base. The system is "unembarassing" because of its passive, semi-covert nature.

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5. The use of the POPPY System for Ocean Surveillance partially overcomes the reduction in intelligence collection I mentioned earlier. I support the POPPY System not only because of its valuable contribution to knowledge about the Soviet ABM threat but also because of its very vital and proven inputs for our Ocean Surveillance requirements. It is our intention to continue this very lucrative system tasking at an increasing rate. We would appreciate your support for continuation of this time proven and economical program.

John H. Chafee
John H. Chafee

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DAVID PACKARD

- ① What is reason
for statement (A)
if it is correct.
- ② Have NRO or DDRE or
whichever is responsible
give me a report
on Poppy Child
program.