

18 July 1962

TOP SECRET

From: RAdm J. L. Lowrance, Director of Naval Intelligence
To: Dr. J. V. Charyk, Director of National Reconnaissance
Office

Subj: Orbital Requirements for POPPY Satellite

1. To avoid some of the confusion which appears to exist with regard to the orbital requirements for the POPPY Satellite the following are firm requirements.

a. Altitude 500 ± 100 Nautical miles.

b. Inclination is $70^\circ \pm 1^\circ$.

2. The present system of read-out utilizes the existing ELINT stations and the [] stations as operational control and gives long tangential passes over the Soviet Union with close operational control from a single point. Utilizing these orbital elements, a maximum number of consecutive orbits, which have suitable overlap between collection stations and which can be task from this single control point are possible. Any departure from these orbital requirements seriously limit the effectiveness of the POPPY Satellite operational concept.

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