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~~TOP SECRET~~

POPPY BRIEF

12-5-68

SLIDE #1

THIS BRIEFING IS DESIGNED TO SERVE AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE  
 NAVY'S COVERT ELINT SATELLITE PROGRAM. AS THIS IS A COVERT, OR "BLACK"  
 PROGRAM, THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF IT ARE VERY SENSITIVE. THE PROGRAM IS  
 "TOP SECRET", IS HANDLED IN THE COMPARTMENTED "BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM"  
 AND IS UNDER THE SPECIAL CAVEAT "EARPOP".

SLIDE #2

AS YOU KNOW, DR. FLAX, AS DIRECTOR OF THE N.R.O., SUPERVISES ALL  
 ASPECTS OF THE AIR FORCE, CIA, AND NAVY COVERT SATELLITE PROGRAMS. THE  
 NAVY PROGRAM IS KNOWN AS PROGRAM "C" AND RADM HARLFINGER, THE ASSISTANT  
 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR INTELLIGENCE, IS THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM  
 "C". (INCIDENTLY, THE NAME "PROGRAM C" IS UNCLASSIFIED AND IS NORMALLY  
 USED IN GENERAL REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM TO EASE THE SECURITY RESTRICTIONS  
 IN CORRESPONDENCE.) THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C" CONTROLS THE ONLY NAVY  
 COVERT SATELLITE SYSTEM, THE ELINT SYSTEM CALLED "POPPY", WITH THE ORGANI-  
 ZATION SHOWN ON THIS CHART:

SLIDE #3

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C" IS A MEMBER OF THE N.R.O. AND IS RESPON-  
 SIBLE FOR THE DIRECTION OF ALL NAVY SATELLITE SYSTEMS THAT ARE A PART  
 OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM.

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PROGRAM "C" MANAGES ALL ASPECTS OF THESE SYSTEMS FOR

HANDLE VIA  
BYEMAN

CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR

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THE DIRECTOR.

NAVAL RESEARCH LABRATORY DESIGNS AND BUILDS THE SATELLITES AS WELL AS THE CONTROL AND READOUT EQUIPMENT.

NAVAL SECURITY COMMAND DIRECTS THE OPERATIONS OF THE GROUND STATIONS THAT TASK AND "READ OUT" THE SATELLITES.

THE NAVY'S POPPY PROGRAM, AS A NATIONAL PROGRAM, IS FUNDED FROM NATIONAL SOURCES. THE "BLACK MONEY" IS PROVIDED BY THE N.R.O. COMPTROLLER FOR SATELLITE AND GROUND EQUIPMENT CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, AND

LAUNCHING. ANNUAL COSTS OF THE NAVY SATELLITE PROGRAM, PROGRAM "C", HAVE BEEN AVERAGING APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, EXCLUSIVE OF

LAUNCH COSTS. THE OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL AT THE GROUND SITES AROUND THE WORLD ARE PROGRAMMED IN THE CONSOLIDATED CRYPTOLOGIC PROGRAM (CCP) AND

ARE PROVIDED FROM SERVICE RESOURCES. APPROXIMATELY 30 MEN ARE INVOLVED AT EACH OF [ ] GROUND STATIONS.

SLIDE #5

THE POPPY SATELLITES ARE ACTUALLY TASKED FOR COLLECTION AND READ

OUT ON A PASS-BY-PASS BASIS [ ] WORLD-WIDE GROUND SITES, LOCATED

IN:

THERE IS A [ ]

~~TOP SECRET~~

WHICH

PHASE OUT IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH. THESE GROUND

HANDLE WITH CARE CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

~~TOP SECRET~~

STATIONS ARE TASKED BY THE COMMANDER OF THE NAVAL SECURITY COMMAND.

SLIDE #6

COMNAVSECCOM RECEIVES DIRECTION FROM THE SATELLITE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC),

PART OF THE N.R.O. IN THE PENTAGON, WHICH IN TURN IS TASKED BY U.S.I.B.

AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES. THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM "C" HAS REPRESENTATION

ON THE U.S.I.B., THE SIGINT COMMITTEE AND THE SIGINT OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE.

AFTER INITIAL ANALYSIS AT THE FIELD SITE, THE ELINT "TAKE" FROM THE

SATELLITES IS FORWARDED TO N.S.A. AT FORT MEADE WHERE IT IS PROCESSED

AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN THE FORM OF PUBLISHED

REPORTS. AT PRESENT ALL THE EFFORTS OF THE N.R.O. ELINT SATELLITE PROGRAMS

ARE DIRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT TOWARD COLLECTION AGAINST THE SOVIET "ABM"

THREAT.

(SLIDE #6 OFF)

THE POPPY SATELLITES ARE GENERAL SEARCH, TRANSPONDER-TYPE ELINT

SATELLITES. EACH SATELLITE CONSISTS OF CIRCUITRY WHICH ENABLES IT TO

TRANSMIT AN INTERCEPTED SIGNAL TO A GROUND STATION FOR RECORDING AND

ANALYSIS. THE SIGNAL PERMITS THE GROUND STATION TO READ OUT FREQUENCY.

PRF, [REDACTED]

WHEN THE SATELLITES [REDACTED]

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THE SOURCE OF AN INTERCEPTED SIGNAL CAN BE LOCATED.

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CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

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AT PRESENT THE NAVY HAS EIGHT BALLS IN ORBIT (TWO SYSTEMS). FOUR

BALLS. IDENTIFIED AS POPPY 7104. WERE LAUNCHED IN MARCH OF 1965 WITH AN

ANTICIPATED LIFE OF 12 MONTHS. POPPY 7105, ANOTHER FOUR BALL SYSTEM,

WAS LAUNCHED IN MAY OF 1967, ALSO WITH AN EXPECTED LIFE OF 12 MONTHS.

EVEN THOUGH ALL 8 BALLS ARE NO LONGER CONTRIBUTING FULLY (PRIMARYLY

SUFFERING FROM BATTERY EXHAUSTION) THE POPPY SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONING

AND HAVE FAR EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS.

THE NEXT POPPY LAUNCH, POPPY 7106, ANOTHER FOUR BALL SYSTEM, IS

SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH IN THE SPRING OF 1969. THESE SATELLITES ARE NOW

BEING ASSEMBLED AND TESTED AT N.R.L. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE N.R.O.,

THE AIR FORCE AT VANDENBERG LAUNCHES THE POPPY SATELLITES FOR THE DIRECTOR

OF PROGRAM "C". THE AGENA IS THE NORMAL SECOND STAGE LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR

POPPY. (A MODIFIED THOR IS THE FIRST.)

SLIDE #7

THE POPPY BALL CONTAINS A SERIES OF RECEIVERS THAT GIVE EXTENSIVE

COVERAGE OF THE RF SPECTRUM. THIS IS THE COVERAGE FOR 7106:

THE MONITORING GROUND STATIONS TURN ON THE DESIRED RECEIVERS WHEN THE BALL

~~TOP SECRET~~

HORIZON AND ALL SIGNALS IMPINGING ON THE BALL

HANDLE VIA

ARE IMMEDIATELY RETRANSMITTED TO THE GROUND STATION FOR RECORDING AND

CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

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NOT-TO-INTERFERE BASIS, TO

AGAINST SOVIET MEN-OF-WAR AT SEA.

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF THE MANY ELINT

SIGHTINGS AT SEA TO PROVE THE FEASIBILITY OF ITS ROLE IN CORAN SURVEILLANCE.

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~~TOP SECRET~~ HOPEFULLY MORE

[ ] WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE TO INCREASE

~~TASKING N.R.O. SATELLITES FOR OCEAN SURVEILLANCE PERMANENTLY. EVENTUALLY~~

THESE SATELLITES SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE GREAT SUPPORT TO THE OCEAN SUR-  
VEILLANCE NETWORK AND PROVIDE TACTICAL INFORMATION ON A REAL TIME BASIS  
TO THE COMMANDER AT SEA.

OUR PRESENT AIM WITH PROGRAM "C" IS TO CONTINUE THE SUCCESSFUL  
OPERATIONS OF THE POPPY SATELLITES; TO IMPROVE OUR FUTURE SATELLITES;  
TO RETAIN AND IMPROVE OUR SATELLITE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION  
CAPABILITIES; TO CONTINUE IDENTIFYING NAVY ROLES IN SPACE; AND TO ENHANCE  
NAVY'S POSITION IN THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE PROGRAM THROUGH  
SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE N.R.O. AND THE APPROPRIATE U.S.I.B.  
COMMITTEES.

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