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

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23 MAY 1969

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From: Navy Member SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance
Subcommittee (SORS)
To: Chairman, SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance
Subcommittee

1. SUBJECT: In support of the U. S. Navy responsibility for Ocean Surveillance, as assigned by the JCS, a very high priority requirement exists for inputs to the Navy Ocean Surveillance Information System from the satellites of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). To satisfy this requirement the Navy desires to initiate tasking, through the National Reconnaissance Office, (NRO), of the appropriate satellites of the NRP. The Navy desires to establish with SORS, the SIGINT Committee and USIB the requirement for tasking the NRP ELINT resources. By parallel action the requirement for tasking the NRP photo satellites will be established with the Imagery Collection Requirements Subcommittee, COMIREX and USIB. The initial goal is the development of the necessary lines of communications to insure timely data input to the Ocean Surveillance data base.

The ELINT satellite input will be directed at locating radiating ships at sea. Present tasking priorities of the NRP ELINT satellites have been considered and the Poppy System, and perhaps others, can be tasked for Ocean Surveillance inputs without interfering with the present tasking. A considerable portion of each satellite revolution is over areas of interest to Ocean Surveillance and not other wise tasked. Establishing the tasking lines of communications immediately, and working out the various details of reporting, will permit rapid response of the NRP ELINT satellites to any contingency, such as that produced by the Soviet moves in Czechoslovakia or the EC-121 shootdown. The NRO has indicated that it is "interested in determining the response capability of satellite collection in time of crisis"; these preliminary steps will enhance the response capability of the ELINT satellite systems.

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2. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION. The greatly increased Soviet naval activity in many areas of the world has in turn increased the Navy's Ocean Surveillance responsibilities on a world-wide basis. To accommodate these increased responsibilities the Navy has realigned its organizational structure for Ocean Surveillance information management. This realignment is giving the Navy a greater capability to collect, colate, analyze and disseminate Ocean Surveillance information from an increased number of sources utilizing many different sensors. Much of the new Soviet activity is expanding into global areas which cannot now be exploited by conventional platforms and sensors due to various political, geographic and equipment constraints. The requirement for new sensor inputs to cover the new and expanding areas of interest, coupled with the ability to handle an increased volume of sensor inputs, has led the Navy to explore the value of intelligence from the ELINT satellites as an input to the Ocean Surveillance data base.

With approval of the NRO the Poppy System was utilized on a trial basis, to provide locations on Soviet combatant vessels. [redacted] because of its digital data processing capability and geographic location, was assigned this project. In one three month trial period [redacted] Soviet combatants were located at sea by the [redacted] of the Poppy System. Where possible these fixes were correlated through other sources and were of sufficient accuracy to be of value in the Ocean Surveillance Information System. While processing the data on the Soviet signals [redacted] it was determined that many individual emitters could be [redacted] their location. The [redacted] identities of many Soviet combatants [redacted] were established through other sources, and these combatants were then located [redacted] by inputs from the Poppy System. The minimum time achieved for the location and identification of targets by this system (on an experimental basis) was [redacted] This has subsequently been reduced [redacted] by removing manual processing procedures and can be further reduced with the introduction of new dedicated procedures. These processing times may be considered [redacted] for the case of surface targets.

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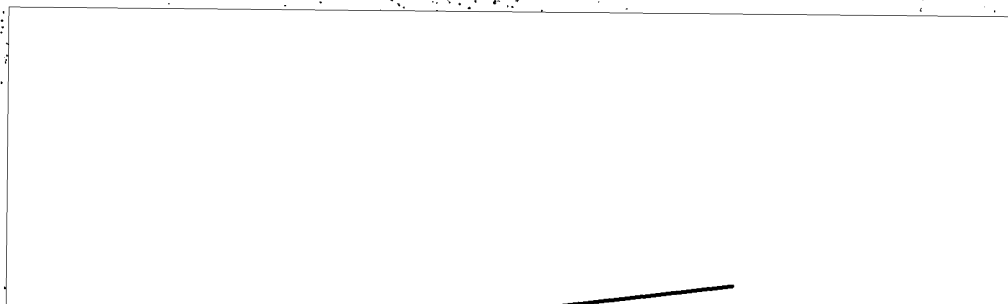
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From the above trial, it was determined that Poppy information is of great value to the Navy's Ocean Surveillance Information System, especially because of [redacted] and global capability of this system. The trial also indicated that the Poppy System can respond to [redacted] for location of detectable radiating platforms at sea.

To further define the geographic areas of interest, the targets of interest, location accuracies and information timeliness for the ELINT satellite support of the Navy Ocean Surveillance Information System the following is provided:

a. Areas of Interest. (NOTE: In response to contingencies, satellite surveillance is desired in various ocean areas. However, particular emphasis and the highest priorities are in those sea areas considered to be "denied areas" or "sensitive areas" by virtue of limitations imposed on surveillance and reconnaissance operations by higher authority. Under present restrictions there are denied and sensitive areas that extend 200 miles seaward from foreign land masses. These denied littoral areas contain many targets of national interest. Also of high priority for ocean surveillance are those areas that can be defined as "inaccessible areas" due to isolation and lack of operating and basing facilities for other reconnaissance platforms.)

The present areas of interest are:



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b. Targets of Interest. Primary targets of interest are Soviet Bloc combatants with the highest priority assigned to missile equipped ships..

c. Location Accuracies. Location accuracies for ocean surveillance purposes are the same as the accuracies

The [redacted]

The average location accuracies of the Poppy system are acceptable. [redacted]

d. Information Timeliness. The information provided by the ELINT satellites is responsive to requirements if a message is filed to the appropriate commander and data base within [redacted] of initial signal detection.

3. REQUESTED ACTION. It is requested that SORS forward to USIB via the SIGINT committee, this Navy request for authority to task, through the NRO as approved by SORS, [redacted] satellites of the NRP for Ocean Surveillance purposes. Additional briefings can be arranged through the Poppy Program Manager by the Navy SORS member if required.

Very respectfully,


J. K. COKEFAIR

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From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Navy Member SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee
(LCDR J. K. COKEFAIR)

1. As Navy Member of the SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee (SORS) you are directed to request from SORS, at the earliest opportunity, authority for Navy to task through appropriate channels the NRP ELINT satellites for Ocean Surveillance support.

T. H. MOORER

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