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SUBJECT
MEMO:BRIEFING REQ'D BY
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MEMORANDUM TO FILE 27 April 1971

Subj: Briefing requested by NRO for early in last week of May 71.

1. Dr. McLucas at the 23 April EXCOM said "the NRO would try to satisfy the Navy Ocean S[redacted]ance Requirements" evidently as aggreed to with CNO. In this connecti.., the NRO wants to have both the West Coast and NRL deliver technical briefings in late May which show use of state-of-the-art technology to Get-With the Ocean Surveillance job...really the "Time-Critical" job is more appropriate considering the Processing and communications systems. This is to be considered an "Interim" system as opposed to the PM-16 Study for the Optimum system.

Major John O'Connell will assist in the determination of the Frequency bands of importance in this proposal.

We are encouraged to [redacted] along the lines of the Small spacecraft proposed in the Contingency plan for 7107 Backup.

The West Coast is going to propose a series of Digital Birds of the P-11 type(of the generic URSALA type) They will probably cover 7 to 8 hundred MHz as well as the 2 GHZ to 10 GHz URSALA bands, with a constellation of birds such that the multiple "Time Critical" Birds would drop their cost to the $4M/each range in quantities of 6 over a 2 year span. This is in addition to their normal P-11 effort of about 3 in 2 yrs. The estimated budget would be $7M to $8M/ normal P-11 and $4M/Time Critical Bird....$21 to $24M for Regular + another $24M for the 6 over the 2 year period their overall budget would not be raised appreciably above the historic cost per year. I think that our Scout "Small-Pair" cost has really put the competitive Fear in them and doubt that the results would be very significant, I should not prejudge it though.

In order to Identify the same emitter over the time period of the first and second observations, they prppose to use RF Frequency. A study should be made to determine the validity of this premise and to be prepared to refute it if possible. Our PRF and Antenna Scan characteristic have already been demonstrated and need no such powerful treatment. The dependency upon the Host vehicle for determination of Time of Day, and orbit-plane will greatly reduce the potential for placing their constellation in a preferred time phased sequence over the target areas. Their Record-and-dump will also greatly increase the time [redacted] of the response to the u[redacted] This delay may also preclude the direction of all resources to the Target of Opportunity situation.

TOP SECRET [redacted]

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