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MEMORANDUM








Rough

7920-146:RDM:rdm

22 April 1971

Subj: Alternative to the approved 

Ref (a) NRL Ltr to Director Program C of 22 April 1971, BYE-_____.

1. The budget estimates presented in Ref (a) are based on the 
 selected by the National Reconnaissance Office. However
NRL does not feel that this concept for  represents the
most cost effective approach.
2. The concept described in the enclosed figure provides significant
improvements in overall performance with a moderate additional
investment. This plan also provides an opportunity for placing
a partial Back-up system in orbit as well as a means of replenishing
in-orbit failures or augmentation of normal coverage.
3. The improved performance would be realized by utilizing the full
potential of the augmented  processing capability available
at the collection sites in the FY-74 through FY-76 time frame. The
standard single orbit plane POPPPY launches result in half day periods
when individual collection sites are not in view of the orbiting
spacecraft. These gaps can be reduced by launching additional
small spacecraft, two at a time, on a Scout, in orbital planes at
the proper angle and time phase with relation to the standard Mission.
4. It is estimated that the additional costs required to nearly double
the collection opportunity, reduce the magnitude of the collection
gaps and provide for a Mission 7107 contingency plan, would amount to
about \$2.2 M a year for three years. This represents an increase of
about 20% in program costs to produce more than a 75% improvement in
overall effectiveness 

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