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Approved for Release: 2024/06/14 C05026420

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DRAFT

1 April 1974

SECRET HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY MEMORANDUM

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From:	Director,	Naval	Research	Laboratory,	Washington,	D.	C.	20375
To:			•					

Subj: Support for the POPPY Program

- 1. NRL views with concern the general low-level of support for the POPPY program. This program has had a long history of making significant contributions to both Navy and National needs. These have ranged from pioneering work in the recognition of the ABM and the SAM systems to being the major developer of a satellite ocean surveillance capability from which is being born. The ocean surveillance efforts have ranged from contributions during the Soviet worldwide OKEAN exercises to the location reports during February 1974.
- 2. The current POPPY maintenance, logistics, and management support is on the borderline of a catastrophic system failure. The numerous maintenance and logistics problems occurring at the various field sites are a precursor of more serious future problems. It is a dangerous situation when an unstable world situation could trigger a heavy demand for support from POPPY only to find it paralyzed from curtailed support.
- 3. NRL has attempted in its areas of responsibility to support the POPPY program with an adequate budget for (1) spacecraft technical support, (2) ground station logistical and technical support (3) maintenance training support, etc. Severe budget restraints have made these efforts of lower quality than is realistic to support an operational system. Accordingly, NRL

believes that an adequate budget (which is a small percentage secret - HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY



HECRET - HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

Subj: Support for the POPPY Program

of the total program C funding) to provide POPPY with a

reasonable quality of support is essential for a program of

National/Navy importance. Community confidence in POPPY is

of direct benefit

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