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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

ELINT MIX ISSUE PAPER

I. BASIC ISSUE: How should the Advanced ELINT system be structured to transition to the STS in a cost effective manner while accomodating both a changing electronic target and changing requirements?

- o Issue is raised because ELINT architecture must be resolved and new starts approved in the FY 1981 budget.

II. POINTS RAISED The following claims and points are made by the IC Staff. While we don't agree in all cases, these points provide a reasonable basis for discussions during the summer review.

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- o P989/SLD
  - Need for second low orbit system depends upon need for sampling of CW, low power and low scan volume ELINT targets.
  - Insufficient data available to choose between P989/SLD or to affirm need for third system in mix.
- o Composition of Mix
  - Options to achieve cost savings by unifying the low cost orbit element should be further defined.
- o Cost
  - FY-81 cost below funds protected, however, the five year cost of Advanced ELINT alternatives exceed the funds protected in the FY 1980 President's program.
  - Lower cost alternatives may be needed.

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ALTERNATIVES: No alternatives are offered, however, further options and studies may be requested by the IC Staff.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- Further study of [Redacted]

IV. RECOMMENDATION: ELINT mix issue is not scheduled for NFIB discussion. If it arises, recommend you:

- o Elicit DCI approval of our basic high/low orbits architecture.
- o Elicit DCI fiscal guidance for FY 81 ELINT programs and for FYDP ELINT programs.
- o Reaffirm program rankings

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

o To the extent possible, resist invention of new alternatives

- Current alternatives provide wide range of capability
- NRO will define lower cost version of [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- We can by offering schedule options put these ELINT performance options within the funds protected line.
- Creation of more options and/or conduct of more studies will not help focus the ELINT issue for FY 1981 resolution.

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