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WASHINGTON, D C

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THE NRO STAFF

7 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with the Executive Secretary of SORS
on RAQUEL IA Versus RAQUEL II

A SORS meeting was held on 7 August at 0930 hours at which NSA presented a briefing on the RAQUEL IA versus II problem. A discussion followed, but came to no conclusions. At approximately 1500, [redacted] called me and implied his belief that the SORS Committee would split on this issue, indicating that NSA and DIA were locked to RAQUEL II (the Services would follow DIA (not necessarily true)) while CIA appeared to be opting for RAQUEL IA, being concerned with gaps in coverage that would allow for technological surprise. [redacted] was apparently offering his "good services" in the form of a memo presenting "facts" which will ally CIA's fears of a coverage gap. He was specifically looking for NRO blessing of alternatives such as early launch of URSALA 5 with coverage of 18 GHz, early launch of a PALLET experiment covering 12-18 GHz, etc. I read to [redacted] the 989 launch schedule portrayed in Option 1 of the Director's Report to the July ExCom and indicated that there could be some flexibility in the schedule. I also indicated that a problem was the 18-month start for a 989, and that HEXAGON launches might not coincide with this 18-month schedule. [redacted] did not appear to understand the implications of URSALA 3 and 4 availability versus new 989 starts, etc. Considerable discussion did not appear to clear up these points. I indicated that neither a PALLET experiment nor [redacted] would appear to be a viable solution. [redacted] seemed determined to proceed with his preconceived facts in a memo; I indicated that the NRO would probably not validate the "facts" in the memo. He indicated that that was well and good and he assumed that the NRO would speak up and correct his memo after it had been published.

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The Chairman of SORS, in a separate conversation, stated that [redacted] volunteered to draft a discussion memo; the NRO should certainly review the memo because he wanted it to be technically correct - even if some of the options were dreams.

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JOHN E. ANDERSON
Major, US Army
NRO SORS Member

Copy to: Mr. Murphy
Lt Col Feldman