

~~TOP SECRET~~HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

18 March 1974

## MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL KULPA

SUBJECT: [ ] Collection with TOPHAT II

25X1

CHARGE 1534 (Atch 1) was sent to alert us to the operational problems and clearance problems associated with operating TOPHAT II to collect [ ]

25X1

The security rules, if followed, would require at least forty additional people to be cleared in the satellite test center and many of them do not have SI billets. Obtaining SI billets is a long lead item that has not been accomplished.

The operational problem relates to the fact that neither the command uplink or the telemetry downlink is encrypted, and hence location of tasking can be readily determined.

Discussion of these problems with Cmdr Phillips, OP 009U, indicates that he does not want to clear all of the people in the [ ] who may learn the [ ] frequency, location of tasking, or the fact that it is a [ ] signal. He also is not concerned that intercept of the up and downlinks could reveal tasking locations, since the data downlink is encrypted.

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The security rules defined in the facing message which allow the [ ] signal to be handled at the EARPOP level by most of the people in [ ] will enable use of TOPHAT to collect [ ] as well as survey the 450 to 1000 MHz frequency range for other similar signals. The NSG, NSA

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EARPOP [ ]

25X1

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CONTROL SYSTEMCLASSIFIED BY BYEMAN - 1 EXEMPT FROM  
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE-  
GORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET.~~TOP SECRET~~CONTROL NO Internal  
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CONTROL SYSTEM

and 009U personnel seem to be more or at least was interested  
in this general search mode as in  collection.

25X1

Request you release the message at the right.



IRWIN J. FELDMAN  
Major, USAF

Atch  
CHARGE 1534

GEN KULPA —

NSA CONCURRENCE IS ATTACHED, DATED 26 MAR.  
PARA 2. OF THE NSA LETTER IS EXEMPTED BY A  
1962 USIB DECISION AS REFLECTED IN NRP DIRECTIVE  
NUMBER 2, ATTACHED. THE USIB DECISION ALLOWS  
THE INFORMATION TO BE HANDLED AT BYEMAN EARLIER  
UNTIL AFTER "INITIAL PROCESSING".  
NAVY  OFFICE (CPOWQU) COORDINATION IS  
ON THE MESSAGE.

25X1

MAJ. Geiger  
26 March

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PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES