

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE NRO STAFF

16 April 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER  
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Smithsonian Institution Proposal to Do Research  
on Early U.S. Reconnaissance Satellites

I believe we should consider favorably involving the Smithsonian in the maintenance of the history of satellite reconnaissance. While we cannot now make any unclassified histories or displays, it is possible that someday, in the far future, this will be done.

Some hardware is already in NRO storage pending authorization to display at an unspecified time in the future. We have previously had discussions with General Collins of the Smithsonian about displaying our reconnaissance spacecraft hardware. Comprehensive histories of the early years of NRP have been written to document this most significant program.

I propose we offer [REDACTED] (or whoever General Collins believes is the right person at the Smithsonian) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] clearances for the purpose of reading our early histories. This research would be followed by discussions with the NRO Staff to determine the direction to be taken in preparing for some future public release.

I recommend that your discussion with [REDACTED] follow along these lines.

[REDACTED]  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director

Declassified and Released by the NRO  
In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

Action Officer: [REDACTED]