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The Honorable Paul H. Nitze  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Mr. Nitze:

NSA shares the view, expressed in your recent letter to Ambassador Bohlen and memorandum to the President, that it is of great importance to arrive at a national policy in the several areas of geodesy. The problems of geodetic data protection require the most careful and thorough study before a policy can be formulated, and such a policy, because of its potential implications for many other scientific and engineering activities, must be understood and accepted by all affected organizations, both within and outside the Government.

The principles of the policy considerations you have suggested are:

- a. To withhold release of global geodetic data except on a basis of reciprocity.
- b. To deny Bloc nationals access to geodetic analyses.

As a practical matter, there is some question whether these principles could be implemented without contravening clear commitments which the U. S. has undertaken in the past. There is the further question whether adequate controls would be available to a government agency to implement these principles. With regard to the first point, the U. S. has undertaken an international commitment to publish and make available the results of the National Geodetic Satellite Program. With regard to the second point, many universities and institutions have access to existing satellite data which they are free to analyze and publish, and a number of scientific and engineering disciplines such as astronomy and space tracking derive global geodetic data as a by-product of their principal activities.

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grading and declassification.

Mr. Nitze

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We therefore believe it is necessary to have the total area reviewed in depth and with a sense of urgency to permit a full understanding of the key points at issue, such as:

- a. What data and analyses are at present available to the Soviets, from their own sources as well as from others?
- b. What has been the Soviet and U. S. scientific output over the last decade?
- c. What is the current state of geodetic knowledge - both classified and open - relative to the gravity field and intercontinental position?
- d. What are the U. S. needs - military, scientific, and operational - for geodetic data of what accuracy?
- e. What data and technology can be protected from hostile exploitation and what would be the impact of such protection on other fields of endeavor?

NASA is interested in participating with you in a thorough review of these matters, their international implications, and their true bearing on U. S. security. NASA can, if appropriate, bring together a group qualified to review the civil and scientific aspects of the problem.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Homer E. Newell

Homer E. Newell  
Associate Administrator

P/Dilman/Jr./psj-11/18/68  
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cc: Dr. Hornig, OST  
Dr. Foster, DOD  
Vice Adm. Taylor, CIA

cc: Mr. Jaffe, SA  
Gen. Smart, W

Concurrences:	S/Dr. Keagle	W/Gen. Smart	ADM/Mr. Shapley
	/s/	/s/	/s/
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Note: 2nd draft edited by Jaffe & Frutkin

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