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mjn*

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

THE NRO STAFF

August 9, 1968

*see comment
at Tab C
mjn*

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Up-Dating the Vance Memorandum on DOD Satellite-Borne Earth Sensing Activities

Problem:

To coordinate a DDR&E proposed revision of the August 30, 1966 Vance memorandum on DOD satellite-borne earth sensing devices.

Background:

Last April, the University of Michigan held its Fifth Symposium on Remote Sensing of the Environment, sponsored by the university and the Office of Naval Research. NASA officials called this to our attention as an "uncoordinated meeting"; in fact, we had not heard of it and were grateful for the tip-off. Under the SACC aegis and John Kirk's leadership, we called a T/KH-cleared officer in ONR and arranged for a last-minute, high-speed review of all the papers. We found no serious problems and believed the review process had not disrupted the symposium.

On June 20, 1968 Dr. A. G. Norman, Vice President for Research at the University of Michigan, wrote a letter to Dr. Foster (see Tab A). Dr. Norman discussed the many problems which confront a university undertaking DOD-sponsored work in an "activist" environment and cited our pre-Symposium security review as one potential troublemaker.

A similar complaint had come earlier from Dr. Frederick Seitz, President of the National Academy of Sciences (see Tab B).

see POL-A-4 for complete file /mjn / 19 Aug 68

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On August 2, Dr. Foster replied to both Norman and Seitz (see Tabs C and D) in an excellently-written, hold-the-security-line letter prepared by Mr. Nichols, DDR&E. Mr. Nichols' Covering Brief (see Tab E) raises a side issue in paragraph 5, pointing out that the Vance memorandum of August 30, 1966 on DOD satellite-borne earth sensing activities (see Tab F) did not specifically cover the need to coordinate either symposia or papers for symposia and perhaps should be up-dated to make future reviews absolutely legitimate.

On August 6, Nevin Palley called me to say that he had been assigned the task of up-dating the Vance memorandum and would I furnish a trial sentence or two? I did so (see Tab G) on August 8, and later that day Nevin coordinated both drafts with Lloyd Wilson and prepared a buck-slip to send them to Dr. Foster for Mr. Nitze's signature.

Current Status:

It is, of course, essential to call a halt, at this point -- if not earlier, and make sure that any such papers have the DNRO's coordination and indorsement prior to their going to either Dr. Foster or Mr. Nitze.

The changes, over the original version, are these:

- a. We no longer center the memorandum around the sins of the Engineers, the Oceanographic Office, and the ONR.
- b. We broaden (with DDR&E's strong support) from "satellite-borne image-forming sensors" to "satellite-borne earth sensors," in order to insure that we get a look at everything.
- c. We broaden the scope by defining "activity" to include "feasibility studies, potential application studies... plans for symposia and conferences, and papers and presentations on this subject area."

This much more generalized document covers the entire area of our security interest, as we see it.

Recommendation:

I recommend that you concur in (1) the desirability of revising the Vance memorandum and (2) the text of the revision, as proposed by DDR&E.

Paul E. Worthman
PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF