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

Dear Mr. Nitze:

ECHA 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 blue 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.
Mr. Nitze

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?

ASA 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,

[Signature]

Homer E. Newell
Associate Administrator

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Mr. Foster, DOD
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Concurrences: 3/Dr. Haugle 3/Gen. Smart 3/ASA/Dr. Shapley
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Note: 2nd draft edited by Jaffe & Frankin