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WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 14, 1969

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ~~FLAX~~ *W.A.H.*

SUBJECT: Secretary of Navy Issue on DOD Space Efforts

Purpose

To apprise you of Mr. Nitze's response to the Secretary of the Navy's recommendations for improving DOD space efforts.

Background

On October 8, 1968, in a memorandum for Mr. Nitze (Tab A), Acting Secretary Baird

- a. expressed concern over the considerable impact that Mr. Nitze's August 23 directive (Tab B), literally interpreted, could have on approved Navy programs; and
- b. recommended the promulgation of new DOD directives which would support active all-service participation in military space matters.

On October 17, 1968, we prepared a draft response (Tab C) to Secretary Baird's memorandum which we coordinated with [redacted] (ODDR&E) and cleared with you prior to its release to [redacted] for his use in preparing a response for Mr. Nitze's signature.

Present Situation

Mr. Nitze has responded to Secretary Baird's recommendations in a memorandum dated January 13, 1969 (Tab D). In response to Mr. Baird's concern over interpretation of the August 23 memorandum, Mr.

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Nitze has:

a. clarified the intent of his August 23 memorandum as a re-affirmation and updating of the basic DOD policy on satellite-borne earth sensing activities;

b. specified the NRO as the best qualified agency for the reviews and analyses required by the directive;

c. excluded certain equipment-associated activities from the restrictions of the directive;

d. suggested the possibility of substituting an in-house Navy "white" instruction for the Top Secret version of the August 23 directive and designating a Navy focal point for the collection and preliminary review of all Navy satellite-borne earth sensing activity prior to its required coordination with the NRO. With regard to this latter suggestion, Mr. Nitze has informed the Navy of his request that you establish within the NRO Staff an O-6 billet to be filled by a Navy Captain who would perform duties assigned by the DNRO and additionally report to the Secretary of the Navy. Although Mr. Nitze's request for the establishment of a Navy billet is being staffed to you as a separate item, a copy is attached (Tab E) for appropriate reference to this issue.

In response to Mr. Baird's recommendations for new DOD directives, Mr. Nitze has:

a. reaffirmed the 1961 decision which assigned to the Air Force the responsibility for the RDT&E of the development of DOD space systems;

b. directed the ASD(A) to modify DOD Directive 5160.32, "Development of Space Systems," to insure increased participation by the other Services.

Recommended Action

No action on this issue is indicated. The billet establishment item is being handled separately.

William R. Yost
WILLIAM R. YOST
Lt Colonel, USAF

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