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~~ISI~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RAR-B-10
RAR-A-8

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 5, 1969

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your comments on the NASA earth-sensing activity guidelines memorandum. Since you say that you have no substantive problems with the paper, I propose to distribute it to the addressees.

You raise two valid points and I would like to comment on them.

a. You point out that perhaps the NSAM 156 Committee should review my proposal. I believe that my proposal for revised guidelines is in accord with the recommendation of that Committee and I do not feel that a meeting is necessary now. A Committee meeting will probably be required when NASA proposes actual development of systems yielding better than 20 meters ground resolution and they may do so shortly after their review of the MOL-developed tracking telescope. For the time being, NASA can study such possible systems for performance to 5 meters within guidelines. Our concern in this area relates primarily to NASA's earth resources program and a possible political confrontation if the program becomes provocative. The security policy guidelines provided by you and the NSAM 156 Committee seem adequate at present and I will operate accordingly.

b. You also express concern about NASA releasing data on orbital astronomical instruments which may reveal the quality of our reconnaissance systems. Although I propose to recognize NASA astronomical experiments as non-provocative to other nations,



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I realize that we must also insure protection of critical technology. The SACC will have the continuing responsibility to review NASA orbital astronomy projects and identify those aspects which cause this type of concern. The SACC will develop security protection recommendations after a NASA experiment has been defined and before hardware procurement is authorized. The first case in point may be a NASA proposal to use some optical technology derived from the DORIAN telescope of MOL. I will monitor closely their study of this idea and keep you and the other members of the ExCom informed of developments.

Sincerely,

John L. McLucas
John L. McLucas

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