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~~151~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE NRO STAFF

March 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Security and Public Information Policy for Military Space Launchings from ETR

In your comment on our earlier memorandum (Tab A) you approved our recommendation to discuss the requirement for modification of the TITAN III C information policy for Program 949 and suggested that we let you handle OSD.

Attached at Tab B is a proposed memorandum asking Mr. Packard's approval of a modification of the TITAN III C information policy for Program 949. Also attached (Tab C) is a short note which asks Mr. Packard's staff to obtain comment prior to submission of the memorandum to Mr. Packard.

We are prepared, then, to follow through with any further discussions required -- with the OASD (PA) and SAFOL.

Request you sign the memorandum for Mr. Packard and the note for his staff.

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

If this can be safely deferred for Dr. McLucas since the first 949 launch will not be until Dec 1970

ccff

Ch. Berg
Instr mem

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

January 31, 1969

FOR DR. FLAX

This bears on this morning's discussion with General Garland which principally pertained to the [redacted] I gather that in addition there is a real ground swell in SAFOI in opposition to any closed launchings, which we find unacceptable. Your reaction will be most helpful.

RUSSELL A. BERG
Brigadier General, USAF

*Existing guidance stated
Mr Vance only exempted
T-III launchers [redacted]
is a T-III launch
Further, since it is
a communication
satellite program over*

involving Army Navy
and NATO participation,
it has not been and
would not be practical
to treat the program as
"Special Access". However,
excepting DOD Director
S-5200.13 applies
to all other launchers
- they are closed
unless excepted
by Sec Def specifically.

The upcoming
949 program will
require modification
of T-THC Policy as
well (later) synchronous
III.

Please provide
survey of all military
launchers from ETR
through 1972, so we can
plan approach

WFF

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

February 5, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Military Space Launches from the AFETR

In reviewing our paper on the ETR launching posture, you asked that we "provide survey of all military launches from ETR through 1972, so we can plan approach."

We have attached a graphic which provides the current best estimate of the number and dates for all military launches from ETR.

In black -- the NRP schedule.

In red -- the Air Force schedule.

We have marked all communication satellite program launches as "excepted" from the provisions of DOD Directive S-5200.13. These, we assume, will go as "open" launches. SESP and Vela are also excepted from the provisions of the DOD directive.

You will note that the 949 launch programmed for June 1970 would be the first opportunity for "cover" for our subsequent launches.

[Redacted]

We are prepared to discuss the requirement for modification of the Titan IIIC policy for Program 949 (suggested in your note) with the OASD (PA) and other representatives, as appropriate. We will await your advice and a "go ahead" before proceeding with any such discussions.

yes - lets do that, but let me handle OSD
act

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

EARPOP [Redacted]

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L. B. [Signature]

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Security and Public Information Policy for Military
Space Launchings from ETR

Military space launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) are conducted as "closed launches" in accordance with DOD Directive S-5200.13, "Security Policy for Military Space Programs," dated November 15, 1962. Under "closed launch" procedures, no advance notice of the date or time of launch is released, the press is neither invited nor permitted to observe the launch, no payload or program information is released. After launch, a short announcement is re-released identifying the launch vehicle and the launch agency. These procedures apply to all military launches at VAFB and ensure adequate security for National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) satellites and the sensitive "white" military space projects. They also prevent clear indications as to which launches are NRP satellites.

At Cape Kennedy, NASA follows "open launch" procedures, with the press not only invited but encouraged to attend and to publicize the activities to the maximum degree. Last May, Mr. Nitze approved the modification of existing Cape Kennedy security and public information policy for the first launching from ETR of an NRP satellite vehicle on August 6, 1968. [redacted]

[redacted]

EARPOP [redacted]

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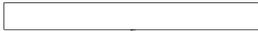
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The present policies with regard to "white" military space launches at ETR relate mainly to TITAN III C launches of such programs as Defense Communication Satellites (DCSP), the VELA Nuclear Detection Satellite, Tactical Communication Satellites and technology payloads. These programs have been conducted under "open launch" procedures as approved exceptions to DOD Directive S-5200.13. 



Air Force Program 949 (Integrated Detection Satellite) is scheduled for launching aboard a TITAN III C vehicle in June 1970. The payload of this system is sensitive -- it will provide a virtually continuous capability to detect Soviet missile launches. It is essential that the details of this program be closely guarded to preclude divulging the specific areas of interests, our payload capability and limitations, and our system vulnerability and survivability. The conduct of Program 949 and NRP projects under similar "closed launch" procedures will further enhance the security posture of NRP launches.

It is necessary, therefore, with your approval, to modify the present security and public information policy and procedures for certain military space launches from Cape Kennedy, specifically Program 949, in order to successfully conduct launches under "closed" procedures in accordance with DOD Directive S-5200.13. We shall work very closely with the OASD (PA) and SAFOI to insure that everything possible is done to keep press speculation and adverse reaction to a minimum.

Alexander H. Flax

Approved _____
Discuss further with me _____

Cc: Dr. Seamans
Dr. Foster



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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

NOTE FOR MR. PACKARD'S STAFF

It would be desirable to obtain a comment
from OSD (PA) prior to submission to Mr.
Packard.

Alexander H. Flax