



~~TOP SECRET~~
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

9 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Recommendation No. 7 of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc
Committee Report

Problem:

What should you and Mr. Helms do about Recommendation No. 7 of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee Report?

Background:

The NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee's final report (see Tab A) reads as follows, under Recommendation 7:

"The Director of Central Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, should review and establish appropriate security restrictions on cameras and other sensing apparatus and equipment which can be made available for NASA's program of non-military applications of satellite earth-sensing. It is recognized that substantial compartmentalization will probably have to remain, but the non-military programs should be enabled to profit from relevant achievements of the military program to the extent feasible."

On August 4, Mr. Helms sent a letter to you (see Tab B) asking for:

1. "Your views and recommendations on sensors within the NRP inventory which can be declassified for use by NASA without jeopardy to the NRP."

2. "Your comments and suggestions on any other security aspects of making presently classified earth sensing equipment available to NASA for its program of non-military applications of earth sensing. "

Alternate Courses of Action:

During June, in response to a request from Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson, you directed the preparation of a study, "Technical Security Considerations of the Disclosure of National Reconnaissance Program Sensor Technology. " This study (see Tab C) had a very limited distribution and could be forwarded to Mr. Helms as essentially answering his questions.

 An alternative action would be to take this occasion to make a somewhat more detailed study of the situation. With Mr. Mazza chairing the study, we could request Mr. Helms, General Carter, and General Martin to furnish one representative each to revise, up-date, or enlarge, as necessary, our earlier, quick-response effort.

Recommendation:

I recommend you approve the second course of action and sign the attached response to Mr. Helms.


PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF