MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (R&D)

SUBJECT: NASA/NAVOCEANO Spacecraft Oceanography Project Annual Report

This is in response to your memorandum of December 6, 1966 which requested policy review of a NAVOCEANO Report, "Spacecraft Oceanography Project."

The subject report has been reviewed. This document is consistent with my March 9, 1966 policy approval of the detailed plan for specific phases of the work thus far undertaken by NAVOCEANO for NASA. There is therefore no objection to releasing this report to NASA.

In my memorandum to you of February 23, 1966 (BYE-52132), I called attention to the existing DOD constraints on activities related to satellite reconnaissance which would inhibit future NAVOCEANO work on study, analysis, design, experimentation or development of satellite-borne sensors and related equipment. Subsequently, on October 11, 1966 my memorandum to the Secretary of the Navy (BYE-52740), "DOD Participation in NASA Earth Sensing Programs," outlined policies established by the Deputy Secretary of Defense for all DOD agencies with respect to NASA earth sensing programs. Under these policies DOD personnel are prohibited from participation in co-sponsorship of or endorsement of such NASA programs. However, DOD agencies and personnel are permitted to participate in NASA aircraft-borne earth sensing programs, but with special care to insure non-identification with any satellite follow-on programs.

Under the above quoted provisions of present DOD policies, NAVOCEANO will be able to continue to cooperate with NASA in the areas of its specialized competence including definition of
oceanographic phenomena and characteristics which are suscep­tible to observation and measurement, assessment of the rela­tive scientific value of various measurements in terms of their nature, frequency and quality, and experimentation from aircraft to support these objectives as well as to obtain new oceanographic data. However, in order to comply with current DOD policies, it will be necessary that NAVOCEANO make suit­able arrangements with NASA to insure that these and related activities do not result in designation of NAVOCEANO as a participant, experimenter, co-sponsor or endorser of NASA space-borne earth sensing programs.

Alexander H. Flax

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