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~~SECRET~~ 312116Z JUL 73 CITE CHARGE 5381.

WHIG
SECUR

FOR: W. CRAIG FM: H. COHEN/J. KINDLE

SUBJECT: SATELLITE DECAY SECURITY

FOLLOWING TEXT OF [] 6086 RETRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFO
PER CONVERSATION 25 JUL 73:

QUOTE

1. IN MARCH/APRIL 1973 I APPROACHED H. COHEN AS TO WHETHER ANYONE IN SP WAS INTERESTED IN PROTECTING INFORMATION DEALING WITH THE DECAY OF SOME OLD SAMOS AND MIDAS SATELLITES DUE TO REENTER THE ATMOSPHERE THIS YEAR. HE BROUGHT IT UP AT THE SP-1 STAFF MTG WHERE NO ONE EVIDENTLY SAW ANY NEED TO PROTECT ANY INFORMATION DEALING WITH THE DECAY OF THESE BIRDS.

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2. NOW, THE MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF RECON SATELLITES DECAYING HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP BY BRIEFED INDIVIDUALS AT [] RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING OUT REPORT ON SPACE OBJECTS PREVIOUSLY COMMANDED/CONTROLLED BY [] WHENEVER INACTIVE, DEAD, RELEASED, OR OTHERWISE NON-SUPPORTED SATELLITES WHICH AT ONE TIME WERE COMMANDED/CONTROLLED BY [] DECAY TO THE POINT THAT THEY WILL RE-ENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, A NUMBER OF UNCLASSIFIED REPORTS GO OUT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS NOTIFYING VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE PROJECTED DAY/TIME/LOCATION OF IMPACT. NORMALLY THERE IS NO NEED TO SUSPECT THAT SUCH A DECAY WOULD POSSIBLY COMPROMISE THE MISSION/TECHNOLOGY OF A PARTICULAR SATELLITE AND THUS REQUIRE MSGS BE CLASSIFIED OR ELIMINATED. HOWEVER, ON 4 JUN 73, ONE OF OUR ECHO BIRDS WAS DUE TO RE-ENTER AND ALL THE NORMAL MSGS WERE BEING ROUTINELY SEND UNTIL THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JCS RAISED OBJECTIONS.

3. IN PREPARATION FOR AN UPCOMING TDY BY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS TO THE SPACE DEFENSE CENTER TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH WHICH AGENCY/ORGINIZATION IS RESPONSIBLE

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OR DETERMINING WHETHER A DECAY COULD POSSIBLY COMPROMISE THE MISSION
TECHNOLOGY OF A PARTICULAR SATELLITE AND THUS REQUIRE PROTECTION
FOR THE NOTIFICATION MSGS. OR CONVERSELY, DO ANY OF THE SP
SUPPORTED SATELLITES REQUIRE THIS PROTECTION? IF SO, WHO DETER-
MINES AND HOW DO THEY NOTIFY US? APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS
MATTER. UNQUOTE

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