

HC, ED, Land Panel file
HK

25 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Land Panel Meeting of 24 April 1969

1. At the invitation of Dr. Steininger, COMIREX briefed the Land Panel on the Intelligence Community's needs for reconnaissance information in crisis situations. The briefing was given by Mr. Hughes, the Alternate Chairman, and used as illustration the Cuban missile crisis, the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, the Czech crisis of 1968, and the Pueblo incident and the EC-121 shutdown involving North Korea. The main conclusion of the briefing was that a satellite reconnaissance system designed to meet the indications and early warning problem would also meet our essential needs in a local crisis situation. The briefing was well received by the Panel.

2. Mr. Hughes, Mr. Inlow, and the undersigned stayed through a number of additional briefings given to the Land Panel by CIA and Air Force elements of the NRO concerning research in connection with [redacted] readout problem. At several points during the afternoon, Dr. Land and other members of the Panel interrupted proceedings to engage in a spirited discussion of the problem. The main thrust of these discussions was:

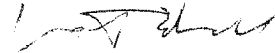
- a. Emphasizing the importance and urgency of developing a [redacted] readout satellite system;
- b. Criticism of the NRO for allowing research efforts to be slower than desirable and criticism of CIA and Air Force elements of the NRO for not pushing research more aggressively; and

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c. Emphasizing the multiple application of a
 readout capability.



William A. Tidwell
Chairman, COMIREX

cc: DDCI/NIPE
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