

HANDLE VIA
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
SUBJECT: Backup Photographic Processing Capability

Several months ago the Department of Defense announced the closing of Westover Air Force Base with the exception of a few tenant units. In your letter, "National Reconnaissance Program" 110268/73, dated August 9, 1973), you asked that we examine the savings which would result from closing the Air Force Special Projects Production Facility (AFSPPF) presently operating as a Westover tenant.

The AFSPPF could continue as an operational unit at Westover; however, this would be less than practical without the full support normally provided by an active base. Therefore, it is my desire to phase out the AFSPPF at Westover and, in so doing, to maintain a backup to the [Redacted] photographic processing capability. Thus, I have implemented certain alternate, cost saving means by which these objectives can be met.

I have directed that the primary processing capability at the [Redacted] be contractually increased to accomplish the majority of the duplicate film processing currently performed by the AFSPPF. In addition, I have approved augmenting the capability of the 544th ARTW at Headquarters SAC, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The 544th ARTW was selected because it is close to a major user of photographic intelligence, presently works with satellite reconnaissance projects, and represents an existing capability.

Activation of the backup capability will require an increase in the physical plant at the 544th ARTW which is estimated to take approximately two and one-half years to complete. At that time, the activities of the AFSPPF will be completely dissolved. In the interim, we will be phasing down the AFSPPF production activity as the [Redacted] increases their capability.

HANDLE VIA [Redacted]
CONTROL SYSTEM [Redacted]
CLASSIFIED BY [Redacted] EXEMPT FROM
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CODE [Redacted]
COPY 102 DECLASSIFY ON MP DET.

CONTROL [Redacted] 13295-
COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES
[Redacted]

The pre and post flight evaluation and analysis functions of the AFSPPF will be continued throughout the transfer of these activities and their corresponding manpower spaces. Research and development tasks selected for continuation will be handled through the NRO.

From an NRP funding standpoint, we anticipated these developments in the July ExCom, and thus reduced our estimates as follows:

	<u>FY-74</u>	<u>FY-75</u>	<u>FY-76</u>	<u>FY-77</u>	<u>FY-78</u>	<u>FY-79</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nov 72 ExCom	[REDACTED]						
Jul 73 ExCom	[REDACTED]						
Reduction	[REDACTED]						

Refinements of the costs indicate that the present approach would add \$1044K in FY 76. This will be included in the November ExCom estimates. In addition, we are expecting sizeable savings in Air Force manpower and O&M support outside the NRP accounts.

I am confident that these actions will permit the NRO to continue to fulfill its photographic reproduction requirements and to do so at a reduced cost.

[REDACTED]

John L. McLucas

HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEM

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C

THE NRO STAFF

November 6, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Backup Photographic Processing Capability

We have prepared for your signature a memorandum to the DCI which explains the decision to phase down and ultimately close the AFSPPF. This responds in part to the DCI's memorandum to you, asking for ways in which NRP costs could be reduced (TAB A).

Recommend that you sign the memorandum at the right.


FREDERICK L. HOFMANN
Lt Colonel, USAF

HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEM

CLASSIFIED BY  EXEMPT FROM
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE
GORY 1E2 DECLASSIFY ON NRP DET.

CONTROL NO. Internal
COPY OF COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

[REDACTED]

9 August 1973

[REDACTED] 10268/73
Copy 1 of 13

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : National Reconnaissance Program

REFERENCES : A. Letter to W. E. Colby from B. A. Bridgewater (OMB) dtd 31 July 1973
B. Memo for Mr. Colby from D/NRO dtd 1 August 1973
C. Letter to W. E. Colby from Director, OMB dtd 30 July 1973

1. We all recognize that some of the discussions at the July ExCom would involve very substantial cost increases in the FY 74 and FY 75 program. At the same time, we are now in receipt of OMB's guidance (Ref C.), which amounts to a hold-the-line ceiling for FY 75 and even raises the possibility of reductions. This would require the most severe approach to all programs of the intelligence community for FY 75.

2. Thus, we need an intensive review of the tentative ExCom actions in July, together with a careful examination of other possible reductions in the NRP to compensate for the increases considered during the July ExCom if these are felt to be essential. Separately, through IRAC, we will be examining the other community programs to see whether they may be the source of some contribution to an increased NRP, but the prognosis here is that they are apt to produce additional demands as well.

3. Therefore, I think it essential for you to examine the overall NRP and develop a range of options between your present fiscal guidance and a continuation of the FY 74 level. In this connection, I would appreciate your examining reduction in [REDACTED] and R&D support, savings from closing the Westover facility, transfer of U-2's, and other possibilities.

WORKING COPY

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E. O. 11652, EXECUTION CATALOG § 55(1), (2) or (4) (circle one or more)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON
Impossible to Determine
(unless impossible, insert date or event)

[REDACTED]

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]

CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10268/73
Copy 1 of 13

Your study of the mix of SIGINT satellites, it seems to me, should be accelerated to identify a range of options here which might offer us savings. In view of the different views on a number of these activities, it strikes me that you may come up with alternate solutions reflecting varying values of different programs, tied to a careful analysis of the performance and approximate costs involved. I would suggest that your study include consultation and membership in the study group from all the affected elements, such as NSA, SAFSP, DIA, CIA, ASD(I), and the IC Staff in addition to NRO itself.

4. In the study of the SIGINT satellite mix, I would appreciate another look at several of the suggestions considered during the ExCom which might present cost savings, and especially such possibilities as:

[REDACTED]

5. In view of the necessity to proceed with overall community budget considerations through IRAC in the same time frame as the presently scheduled November ExCom meeting,

- 2 -

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]

CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
10268/73
Copy 1 of 13

I believe it essential that the above studies be completed in a form sufficiently precise, if not conclusive, to allow decisions prior to the summer of 1974 as suggested in your letter. For that reason, I would hope that we would have a short ExCom meeting sometime after 15 September to review at least your initial thoughts on the above so that they can be integrated with the community budget review.

6. Dr. Hall joins me in the above suggestions pursuant to his responsibilities as DOD ExCom Member and as ASD(I).

[REDACTED]
W. E. Colby

Concur:

[REDACTED]
Albert C. Hall

- 3 -

HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY