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MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF, USAF

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy Position Concerning Space Surveillance

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is scheduled to meet in late March or early April of this year. Discussions will include consideration of the problems of recovery and liability which will arise if a satellite of one country were to come down in the territory of another country. One of the questions that may come up is that of the legality of surveillance by satellites.

In connection with our preparations for this effort, I think it is essential that we have prepared for our delegation's use a good paper on what the United States' position should be on the subject of surveillance by satellites of other peoples' territory. I recall that our military people have exercised this question in one form or another several times in the last few years in conjunction with related questions that have come up in the JCS.

Please have such a paper developed for my consideration during the week of 19 February 1962.

Joseph V. Charyk
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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