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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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THE NRO STAFF

20 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Brezhnev's Reference to Reconnaissance Satellites

Problem:

What did Brezhnev really say regarding satellite reconnaissance?

Background:

The final report of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee (see Tab A) refers to a recent statement by Brezhnev as follows:

"In the first post Khrushchev statement referring implicitly to Soviet satellite reconnaissance, Brezhnev on July 1 dismissed as untrue 'fables' alleging that the U. S. has 'all-seeingspy satellites,' larger numbers of missiles, and invulnerable submarines. These fables, he said, are intended for simpletons who do not know 'what missiles, what satellites, what submarines' the USSR has."

You asked us to get the full text of Brezhnev's speech and we have done so (see Tab B).

Comments:

I discussed the Brezhnev statement with Mr. Garthoff when he was drafting earlier versions of his final report. Mr. George Denney, of State, pressed very hard to have this statement made part of the report. It fits Mr. Denney's anti-[REDACTED]-TKH thesis to try to show that "even the Soviets are discussing satellite reconnaissance." Mr. Garthoff, who is a meticulous scholar, resisted including this

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material, pointing out that Brezhnev doesn't say he has "spy satellites;" he says he has "sputniks." After much pressure from Denney, Garthoff finally did refer to the Brezhnev statement, salving his conscience with the introductory phrase, "The first... statement referring implicitly [*italics mine*] to Soviet satellite reconnaissance," etc.



PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

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