

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
[REDACTED]

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

THE NRO STAFF

March 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for General Penney

Captain Peyton and I briefed General Penney and his staff, at DMA request, on the background, policy and NRO actions in regard to Congressional relations. General Penney is testifying on March 12 before the R&D Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. He desired to be briefed on the limits of his authority to testify about space reconnaissance and mapping.

The briefing went very well, lasting about 25 minutes. The remainder of the hour was spent with General Penney covering prepared questions and answers and asking our guidance. We stressed the need for candidness, going "off the record," and deferring questions which treated the reconnaissance program.

I believe that the session was positive and productive. General Penney appeared to have a good grasp of the NRO's problems and his own responsibilities in testifying. We offered further assistance if needed.

A copy of the briefing is attached.

[REDACTED]

HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF

Handwritten initials

CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] EXEMPT FROM
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE
GORY 1.2.2 DECLASSIFY ON MP DET.

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONTROL NO Internal
COPY OF COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Reverse Remarks on Vertical Items

● PAST INTEREST IN SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE

- MEDIA SPECULATION ABOUT LAUNCHES
- SALT SPECULATION
- MENTION OF "NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE"
- NO DOD CONFIRMATION OR COMMENT

● CURRENT INTEREST IN SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE

- ERTS
- CONGRESSIONAL INSERT ON NRO
- DECOMPARTMENTATION LIMITS
- WASHINGTON POST ARTICLES ON NRO
- CENTRAL FOCUS FOR CONFIRMATION OR COMMENT
- PROXMIRE LETTER ON PLUMMER CONFIRMATION
- McLUCAS QUESTIONING ON NRO
- NRO EXISTANCE - TO ADMIT OR NOT

- PUBLIC ATTENTION RAISED
- MEDIA INTEREST INTENSIFIED
- NEED FOR PROPER DISSEMINATION
- NEED TO PROTECT CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

Reverse Remarks on Vertical Mount

- NRO BRIEFING CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
- NRO FUNCTIONS AS CHANNEL TO CONGRESS
- SUPPORT REQUIRED FROM DOD SPOKESMAN

Reverse Remarks on Vertical Blank

- **AVOID STATEMENTS REGARDING SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE
(DESPITE DECOMPARTMENTATION)**

- **FOR QUESTIONS ON SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE**

- **TESTIMONY OFF THE RECORD**

- **STRESS SUBJECT SENSITIVITY**

- **ANSWER QUESTION IF APPLICABLE**

OR

- **DEFER TO COGNIZANT AUTHORITY**