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

[redacted]

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COLBY, DCI

SUBJECT: Defense Support Program Mission Classification

Your memorandum of December 15 [redacted] 10855-73) asked for withdrawal of the Air Force proposal [redacted] public release of the Defense Support Program mission statement and avoidance of any other declassification of that program. In response to your request, Deputy Secretary of Defense Clements has asked Dr. McLucas and me to develop a paper which addresses the problems associated with using overt space programs to obscure the mission of NRO programs. He has also asked that this be presented for ExCom review and that further action of issuing a declassified mission statement for the Defense Support Program be deferred until the ExCom has addressed the issue.

Brigadier General John E. Kulpa, Jr. is the NRO Staff point of contact for addressing this item. Your inputs are needed and I would appreciate your designating someone to work with General Kulpa.

[redacted]

cc: Mr. Clements

[redacted] CLASSIFIED [redacted] EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET.

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