

Mr. Plummer has seen.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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

THE NRO STAFF

4 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Status of "Fact Of" Paper

You asked that we provide you a status of the "fact of" paper being written by State Department for the White House prior to your 5 June session with Secretary Schlesinger. Here is the status.

We still have not received a "for comment" copy of the paper. Our information comes from a back channel copy provided by Mr. Katz. Mr. Latimer has discussed the paper in the context of its thrust with Mr. Hyland, Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mr. Hyland told Mr. Latimer that as far as he was concerned he did not want open discussion of the "fact of" and the substance of the current draft should not be of concern. The current draft attempts to be balanced and as such diminishes the arguments for holding the line while at the same time embellishes the weaker arguments in favor of the acknowledgement. At the Senate Select Committee interface ad hoc group meeting on 4 June, I asked the author of the paper, Mr. Hitchcock, whether or not we would be receiving a "for comment" copy. He said that it was still in coordination within the State Department and he had not been able to attain consensus at this time.

It is recommended that you briefly express some concern to Secretary Schlesinger about the damage to the NRO operation with respect to "facts about" reconnaissance satellite technology if the "fact of" were acknowledged. Secretary Schlesinger apparently has expressed the belief that the reason that we protect the "fact of" is to preclude international problems and he should be aware that there is a potential impact on the technical aspects as well.

[Redacted Signature]
Lt Colonel, USAF

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