

~~TOP SECRET~~

101-A-5
[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

THE NRO STAFF

23 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: De-Control of "the fact of" Satellite Reconnaissance

Mr. Reber saw Mr. Helms on 20 June and briefed General
Dele [REDACTED] Dr. Flax, and me today on his experiences. He said that
after talking for about three minutes he was challenged by the
DCI, who said, "Just what terrible things will happen to the NRO
if this decontrol goes through? I've had a whole series of special
pleaders march through telling me the world is going to end. What
specific problems do you see, Jim?" To which, Mr. Reber says
he had no reply.

Dr. Flax told us, then, that he had seen Mr. Vance yesterday
and had briefed him, hurriedly, on the disclosure problem. Mr.
Vance said that change was inevitable, that "this too must change,"
and that we must learn to accommodate to change. Dr. Flax
interprets this as perhaps being based on "a signal from the White
House." He then told Mr. Vance that NRO management would
certainly be much more cumbersome outside the [REDACTED] envi-
ronment. Mr. Vance looked surprised and said, "The manage-
ment must not be allowed to change."

There is a consensus that there is no point in fighting this
problem. I do not understand how the defeatist attitude developed.
We have not one shred of hard data re Restow, "the White House,"
or inexorable forces beyond our control. Yet, there seems to be
an air of relief on the part of persons who advance this hypothesis.
Is the community actually tired of shoring up [REDACTED] security?
Is five years best one can expect as the lifetime of any special
security arrangement? What are the motives/pressures?

HANDLE VIA
[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULES

CONTROL NO. Internal
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

This has been a baffling month, on the security front. Perhaps the next move should be via NASC or Kohler to the summit; it would certainly be the final move!

De. 

PAUL E. WORTHEMAN
Colonel, USAF

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DOWNGRADING DIRECTIVE 5700.10 DOES NOT APPLY

Internal

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES