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March 30, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. VANCE
General Counsel, DOD

I attach a copy of the proposed CIA version of the Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency relative to management of the National Reconnaissance Program. As we discussed, this appears to be different in a fundamental fashion from the draft which Secretary Gilpatric forwarded to Mr. McCone on January 17th. We should discuss the matter with Secretary Gilpatric when he returns next week to determine what steps should be taken next.


Joseph V. Charyk

Att. Cy of Proposed Agreement

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Charyk

Attached is the revised NRO agreement. We will await action here pending your discussions with Mr. Gilpatric.


He ovine, Jr.
DD/R

Please have original and second copy signed in order that both CIA and DOD will have signed copies.

29 March 1962

(DATE)

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<i>Dr. Chang</i>							

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27 March 1962

AGREEMENT

Management of the National Reconnaissance Program

This paper outlines the agreement between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency for establishing a National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), and for dealing both with the management and operation of this program and the handling of the intelligence product of the program on a covert basis.

1. The NRP will consist of all denied area overflight and satellite reconnaissance projects whether overt or covert. It will include all such efforts as photographic projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping purposes, and electronic signal collection projects for electronic signal intelligence and communications intelligence resulting therefrom.

2. There will be established on a covert basis a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to manage this program. This office shall be under the direction of a Director and Deputy Director, one being appointed by the Department of Defense and the other by the Central Intelligence Agency. The Department of Defense representative shall be the Under Secretary of the Air Force, and the Deputy Director (Research) (DD/R) shall act for the Central Intelligence Agency. The NRO will include a small special staff whose personnel will be drawn from the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency and assigned on a full-time basis to appropriate positions within the office.

3. The NRO will have responsibility for the planning, development, and monitoring of all elements and phases of the National Reconnaissance Program. Within this program prime responsibility and authority for the over-all aspects of each individual project will be specifically assigned to either the Department of Defense or the Central Intelligence Agency by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence acting jointly upon recommendation of the Director and Deputy Director, NRO. Responsibility for various subtasks will likewise be assigned to a specific agency on an individual project basis. All advance planning and new projects will be coordinated with both the Director and Deputy Director of the NRO.

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4. Decisions of the National Reconnaissance Office will be implemented and its management of the National Reconnaissance Program made effective: within the Department of Defense, by the exercise of the authority delegated to the Under Secretary of the Air Force; within the Central Intelligence Agency, by the Deputy Director (Research) in the performance of his presently assigned duties. The Under Secretary of the Air Force will be designated Special Assistant for Reconnaissance to the Secretary of Defense and delegated full authority in this area.

5. Within the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force will be the operational agency for management and conduct of those projects assigned by the NRO to the DOD, and will conduct these projects through the use of streamlined special management procedures involving direct control from the office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force to Reconnaissance System Project Directors in the field, without intervening reviews or approvals.

6. Within the Central Intelligence Agency the Deputy Director (Research) will be the operational element responsible for management and conduct of those projects assigned by the NRO to the CIA. The DD/R will conduct this program through the use of special Agency procedures and will utilize whatever elements of the Agency are required for its successful prosecution.

7. A Technical Advisory Group for the NRO will be established.

8. A uniform security control system will be established for the total program by the NRO. The Central Intelligence Agency shall define security policy, procedures, and responsibilities for the National Reconnaissance Office. Products from the various programs will be available to all users designated by the United States Intelligence Board.

9. The NRO will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal (Sigint) collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board and will develop the over-all reconnaissance program to satisfy these requirements. The National Security Agency will review USIB electronic signal (COMINT and ELINT) requirements and will recommend to the NRO those which, in NSA's opinion, can best be fulfilled by means of overhead reconnaissance.

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10. The National Security Agency will be solely responsible for the research, development, planning, and operations for processing of electronic signal data (COMINT and ELINT) collected from space vehicle sources, taking into consideration the effective utilization of all processing resources available to the U.S. Government. The processing will include technical feedback to the NRO as well as extraction of intelligence data, but technical feedback from other sources may be provided.

11. The NRO will develop suitable cover plans and public information plans, in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, to reduce potential political vulnerability of these programs. In regard to satellite systems, it will be necessary to apply the revised public information policy to other non-sensitive satellite projects in order to insure maximum protection.

12. The Director and Deputy Director of the NRO will establish detailed working procedures to insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency are fully and most effectively utilized in this program.

13. Management control of the field operations of various elements of the program will be exercised directly, in the case of the Department of Defense, from the Under Secretary of the Air Force to the designated project officers for each program and, in the case of the Central Intelligence Agency, from the Deputy Director (Research) to the designated project officers for each program. Major program elements and operations of the NRO will be reviewed on a regular basis and as special circumstances require by the Special Group under NSC 5412.

14. This agreement hereby rescinds 6 September 1961 agreement entitled "Management of the National Reconnaissance Program", signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Acting Director of Central Intelligence.

JOHN A. McCONE
Director of Central Intelligence

ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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