

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
CONTROL SYSTEM

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D C

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THE NRO STAFF

October 23, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Security Incident

Received a call on October 19 from Bob Curts, OASD/I, regarding the query from Mark Bender, Congressional Quarterly, concerning whether the National Reconnaissance Office was part of the Defense Department. Apparently the query received at OSD/PA and passed to the Air Force section there was also passed to the DOD section to a Lt [redacted] who queried ASD/I. Cdr [redacted] fielded the query and passed it to Mr. [redacted] for response. Mr. [redacted] did not contact us prior to giving Lt [redacted] the answer. We were contacted shortly afterward through [redacted]. The response Mr. [redacted] gave was that it was a classified title. I told Mr. [redacted] that the normal DOD answer to a query regarding reconnaissance activities was that the DOD as a matter of policy does not discuss reconnaissance methods, capabilities, organizations, equipment, products or operations. This is the answer which Maj [redacted] gave to the OSD/PA Air Force section.

I contacted Maj [redacted] regarding the ASD/I response and asked him to cut off the "classified title" response without provoking a lot of curiosity on the part of the OSD press desk. He apparently contacted the press desk (his contact) and asked that the response given to Bender be that which was furnished by SAFOI, in that it was the preferable answer.

I also contacted Cdr [redacted] and Col [redacted] DIA-DC (Asst) and cautioned them that queries of this nature are to be expected and their cooperation in assuring that the proper answer is given would be appreciated.

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652/11651/11650/11649/11648/11647
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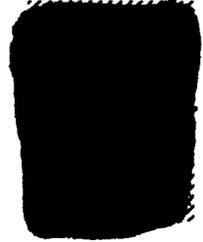
I mentioned the incident to Capt Geiger and touched lightly on the question of whether Lt [redacted] should be counselled on the sensitivity of the answer given by the OASD/I. He indicated that he would look into the matter.



Captain, USAF

23 Oct

No record at OASD/PA was made of the ASD/I response. There is no need for contacting Lt Peave. No further action required in this regard.



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