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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

M. Chang

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 11, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR McCONE

SUBJECT: SecDef DCI Agreement on NRO

Your April 9 draft of the subject agreement is satisfactory to Joe Charyk and myself with the following changes:

At the end of the Policy paragraph at the bottom of page 1, insert the clause "and will be responsible directly to them for the management and conduct of the NRP".

In the first line of paragraph 2a(1), insert after "Executive Agent" the phrase "for DNRO".

At the end of paragraph 2a(3), change "NSA responsibilities" to "the exploitation responsibilities of the NSA".

In the second line of paragraph 4a, change "the concurrence of" to "coordination with". The second sentence of the same paragraph has also been reworded.

Paragraph 5 has been revised.

I enclose two copies of the agreement reflecting these changes. If the changes are acceptable to you, we should exchange signed copies of the agreement which, after approval by the President, would then supersede the September 6, 1961 agreement.

(signed)
Roswell Gilpatric

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11 April 1962

Agreement Between
Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence
ON
Responsibilities of the National Reconnaissance Office (TS)

Definitions:

NRO - National Reconnaissance Office

NRP - National Reconnaissance Program, to consist of
all overt and covert satellite and overflight projects
for intelligence, geodesy and mapping photography and
electronic signal collection.

DNRO - Director, National Reconnaissance Office.

Policy:

The following plan outlines basic policy for the establishment
of functions and responsibilities within the National Reconnaissance
Office 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 the establishment, manage-
ment and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program. The DNRO
will be designated by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of
Central Intelligence, and will be responsible directly to them for the
management and conduct of the NRP.

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1. Requirements and Priorities

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.

2. Management

a. The technical management responsibility for all the NRP is assigned to the DNRO. Under this over-all responsibility for NRP, DNRO will utilize existing resources in the following manner:

(1) CIA will be the Executive Agent for DNRO for those covert projects already under its management and such additional covert projects as are assigned to it by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

(2) To provide for full use of available capabilities and resources, and to provide for interface with data exploitation equipment development by agencies outside the NRO, representatives of Army, Navy, Air Force, and CIA, will be assigned, on a full-time basis, to appropriate positions within the NRO under the DNRO.

(3) A firm liaison channel between the NRO and the NSA will be established as an adjunct to the technical management structure of signal collection projects, and the conduct of such projects carried out in accordance with the exploitation responsibilities of the NSA.

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(4) Planning will encompass maximum utilization of the technical and operational resources of the DOD, the Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA, and the CIA to support all collection programs, including, but not limited to, electronic signal and photographic collection programs.

b. Financial Management:

(1) The DNRO will be responsible for funding the NRP. DOD funds will be allocated on an individual project basis and will appear as appropriately classified line items in the Air Force budget. CIA will be responsible for funding covert projects for which it has management responsibility under paragraph 2. a. (1) above.

(2) DNRO will have responsibility for all NRP contracts in accordance with the assignment of technical management responsibility in paragraph 2. a. Consistent with paragraph 2. a. (1), CIA will be the Executive Agent of the DNRO, responsible for administering procurement and contracting for covert projects for which it is assigned responsibility under paragraph 2. a. (1), and for covert contracting necessary for the support of overt projects.

3. Security

In accordance with the basic responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence for protection of intelligence sources and methods, CIA will establish security policy for the NRP, including provision for a uniform system of security control and appropriate delegations of security responsibility.

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4. Operations

a. **Scheduling:** The mission schedule for all NRP efforts will be the sole responsibility of DNRO, subject to coordination with CIA on covert projects for which it is Executive Agent and the obtaining of appropriate clearances where required from higher authority. Operational control for individual projects under the NRP will be assigned to the DOD or to the CIA by the DNRO in accordance with policy guidance from the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence. DNRO will be responsible to assure that mission planning will make full use of all intelligence available in the community.

b. **Format:** The DNRO will be responsible for the format of the collected NRP product as follows:

(1) **Photographic format will include the initial chemical processing, titling, production and delivery to the users as specified by the USIB.**

(2) **Electronic signal data format will include the decommutation, conversion, technical correction and reconstruction of the collected signal data to yield a usable collection product. DNRO will deliver the collection product in proper format together with associated data necessary for exploitation, to the NSA or other user as specified by the USIB.**

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c. Engineering Analysis: The DNRO will be responsible for engineering analysis of all collection systems to correct the problems that exist on the operating system as well as to provide information for new systems. In connection with covert projects for which CIA is Executive Agent, this responsibility will be carried out under the supervision of CIA.

5. The DNRO is responsible for advanced plans (post CY 1962) for all NR^D projects, utilizing representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force and CIA who are assigned to the NRO on a full-time basis.

6. Public releases of information will be the responsibility of the DNRO subject to the security guidance of CIA.

7. The Deputy Director (Research), CIA, will be responsible for seeing that the participation of CIA in this Agreement is carried out.

John A. McCone
Director of Central Intelligence

Roswell L. Gilpatric
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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