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

THE NRO STAFF

November 16, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: General Keegan's Views of Decompartmentation

This morning Dr. McLucas met with General Keegan, Mr. Singel, General Kulpa and me in order to discuss the decompartmentation proposal. Dr. McLucas opened the session by asking about the proposal's current status. It was explained that Dr. Kissinger has had the proposal for over a month and has not yet taken action.

General Keegan asked for a few minutes in order to provide his views on decompartmentation. During the next twenty minutes he covered the following items. He related how he had been instrumental in proposing decompartmentation to Dr. Schlesinger and that General Keegan's thoughts actually precipitated the present proposal. He went on to relate how compartmentation began under President Eisenhower when General Keegan was with Eisenhower. Initially DOD was requested to initiate proper controls in the mid 1950's. As DOD could not meet this requirement CIA in fact sponsored compartmentation. He went on to cite the ills associated with TALENT-KEYHOLE which included a monstrous administrative burden, exclusion of flag-rank decision makers, promulgation of the threat and the impact of reduced resources. He stated that the present proposal, although clearly inadequate, is a giant step forward and would accrue annual savings of \$12 million as well as allowing more personnel access. General Keegan believed that SIGINT should have also been included in this proposal. General Keegan did not mention the fact that the Secretary of Defense had incorporated a strict NOFORN caveat although General Keegan mentioned several times that the Secretary of Defense was in full accord with the proposal.

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During the remaining few minutes Dr. McLucas asked if the Russians had a TK system and General Keegan said not to his knowledge. Another point discussed which Dr. McLucas raised was that Secretary Clements, at the Friday morning breakfast, was dissatisfied with the intelligence handling of the Middle East crisis and felt that our "wonderful technical systems" were not too good. General Allen pointed out to Secretary Clements that compartmentation of such intelligence was required in view of the extreme sensitivity of the source.

In summary it was a one sided meeting and nothing was resolved. Dr. McLucas gave an indication that he would let the situation ride until such time as Dr. Kissinger made a decision. I believe that General Keegan left the meeting feeling that he had made his points, however, I also believe that Dr. McLucas did not move any further toward being in favor of the proposal.


Lt Colonel, USAF

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