

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TALENT-KEYHOLE~~

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM  
14 JAN 1971

~~151~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

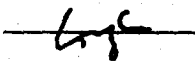
February 1, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: IG Inspection of Air Force Drone Reconnaissance Program

On January 25 we were passed a copy of the attached message by [REDACTED] of Colonel Hartley's office. The message requested billets for IG personnel to permit them to inspect the NRO management of the covert drone program. On January 27 I called [REDACTED] in Colonel Hartley's office to see if he could obtain a copy of [REDACTED] directive for the inspection. A reference was made in the message to the effect that the Secretary had directed "normalization" of the drone management program. [REDACTED] went to the IG front office and explained the reason that he wanted the directive to General Box. General Box phoned Norton Air Force Base to inform the originators of the message that the letter, actually signed by General Meyer in January, did not give the authority to investigate the covert drone program. It appears as if [REDACTED] was attempting to interject himself into the NRO activity without authority. General Box told the Norton people to back off any sensitive areas. AFIN who had received the billet request was then directed by [REDACTED] to deny the request.

In summary, it appears that the TAGBOARD once again remains protected.

  
HAROLD S. COYLE  
Major, USAF

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CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

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~~TOP SECRET~~ BYEMAN TALENT KEYHOLE CONTROL SYSTEMS

JOINTLY USAF TIG JAN 71

1. THE USAF INSPECTOR GENERAL HAS BEEN TASKED WITH A REQUIREMENT TO INSPECT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AIR FORCE DRONE RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM DURING THE PERIOD 1 MAR TO 21 MAY 71. SPECIFICALLY ITS OBJECTIVES ARE:

A. TO DETERMINE THE DEGREE THIS PROGRAM HAS COMPLIED WITH SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE DIRECTION TO "NORMALIZE" ITS MANAGEMENT.

B. TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS CURRENT MANAGEMENT.

C. TO LOOK AT DEVIATIONS IN ITS CURRENT MANAGEMENT FROM PAST CRITERIA.

2. [REDACTED] PRIME INSPECTOR TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT, (WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS TO THE BYEMAN SYSTEM) INTERPRETS "NORMALIZE" AS EQUATING TO OR RELATIVE TO MANAGEMENT

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OF THE COVERT DRONE PROGRAM UNDER NRO COGNIZANCE.

3. REQUEST [REDACTED] BE TRANSFERRED TO SI T/K  
BILLET 311030114 TO ASSIST [REDACTED]

4. APPROXIMATELY 1 - 8 PERSONNEL TOP SECRET CLEARED, WITH  
BI'S ONLY, WILL ASSIST [REDACTED] IN  
THEIR INSPECTION. QUERY THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING LIMITED  
TANGO/KILO TYPE AUTHORITY FOR THESE PERSONNEL TO PERMIT ACCESS  
ONLY TO INFO ON NRO'S MANAGEMENT OF THE COVERT DRONE PROGRAM.  
IT WOULD BE CONFINED TO PROCUREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF DRONES  
FOR THIS PROGRAM AND NOT INCLUDE ANY SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE  
OR OPERATIONAL USE OR RESULTS OBTAINED WITH THIS PROGRAM'S  
SYSTEMS.

5. IF PARA 4 IS NOT APPROPRIATE ANY OTHER PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS  
WILL BE APPRECIATED. REQUEST REPLY SOONEST.

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