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Date: 18 OCT

FOR YOUR:

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~~MEETING WITH~~ NASA Earth Resources Program

Note from Bob Naka adds to discussion at Excomm

By WLS

YOUR COMMENTS/DIRECTION:

Return to Dr Naka

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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

October 18, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: NASA Earth Resources Discussion at ExCom

You will recall that Dave Packard added an item to the September 28th ExCom Agenda, calling for a discussion of the NASA earth resources survey program. During the meeting this discussion revolved primarily around the use of the ERTS-A return beam vidicon spacecraft and the NASA agreement recently consummated with the Soviets. I believe there may have been some misunderstanding at the meeting, and I wanted to furnish you some clarification.

The agreement between NASA and the Soviets, which Dr. Rehtin took exception to, provides for a broad range of information to be exchanged, collected from aircraft and manned and unmanned spacecraft. Sensors employed would provide spectro-photometric, photographic, multi-spectral, thermal, and microwave surveys. Ground base data would serve to corroborate that gathered by the remote sensors. The agreement provides that the results of these experiments will be exchanged in the form of technical reports containing conclusions, analysis methods and original data, with sufficient completeness that the analyses could be repeated or accomplished by alternative methods by other investigators.

In the joint agreement, the Soviets mentioned their national program to employ several research ships, meteorological satellites, and aircraft and spacecraft in support of the international tropical meteorological experiment in 1974. NASA went into greater detail in the agreement, specifically mentioning ERTS-A, ERTS-B, NIMBUS E, SKYLAB, and the NASA aircraft program.


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I am concerned about two points with reference to the ExCom meeting. First the film which we talked about screening before distribution would be in SKYLAB (not ERTS) with a 30 foot best resolution. I believe we have this appropriately backstopped according to the discussion at the ExCom meeting. Second ERTS with a design best resolution of 300 feet can be read out with an appropriate receiving facility. Although this resolution is not sensitive within present guidelines, I note that there are no plans by NASA for screening and all ERTS-A pictures are considered releasable. I am investigating the desirability of a security review of these pictures.


F. Robert Naka
Deputy Under Secretary
(Space Systems)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

12/10/71

Mr Naha,

Do you know
status of last
sentence on page
2?

[REDACTED]

Fritz.

Am looking for an
answer from you —
at the same time I
don't know what MCL did

[REDACTED]

5-
see me for a note to
George Smith
2