

~~TOP SECRET~~

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

November 14, 1972



NOTE FOR COLONEL VON INS/JCS(ACSAN)

Sir:

Attached is a package which relates to a NASA proposal for the Apollo 17 earth orbital contingency mission. NASA is proposing that they be allowed to take 10 meter satellite photos of earth areas including "denied areas" in the event of a contingency. NASA's proposal in fact poses a broad political question for which there is no established U.S. policy. This question deals with the U.S. policy in the event a second or third country objects to being photographed without permission. Ten meter photos could be considered intrusive on national sovereignty if overtly acquired, then publicly released by NASA.


Admiral Moorer will be asked to make a judgement on the NASA proposal. Dr. McLucas' letter to Mr. Rush is included in the attached package along with the NASA draft proposal and the NRO response. We believe that Admiral Moorer should be made aware of the situation prior to his 40 Committee participation. It is recommended that Admiral Moorer advocate a continuation of previous 40 Committee approvals for Apollo missions so that only U.S. areas are authorized to be photographed.


  
Major, USAF  
Assistant Deputy Director  
for Plans and Policy

1 Attachment  
Memo for Mr. Rush  
(13199-72)

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