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

USIE-2-46.3/2

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

10 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT: National Imaging Plan for Satellites (NIPS)

The Director of Central Intelligence requested that the NRO proceed with certain elements of a National Imaging Platfor Satellites (NIPS). These elements are those that are appropriate to the NRO mission, i.e., the planning, design, development, acquisition, and operation of future acquisition systems to meet national intelligence requirements. The following is presented to apprise the USIB of NRO endeavors in preparing the above elements of a cohesive and viable NIPS.

The scope of the NRO efforts will span all national imaging activities associated with satellite systems. The thrust will be to establish and analyze a data planning base comprised of requirements, capabilities, and technologies, with the goal of providing feasible program alternatives to meet national needs.

The basic NIPS, as the NRO perceives it, would take the form of an annually updated report which includes the following major components:

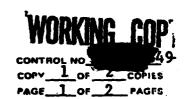
<u>Introductory Statement</u> - Outlines the purpose and scope.

Requirements and Exploitation - Describes the requirements process and current and projected requirements.

<u>Current Capabilities and Program Options</u> - Describes current collection programs and options.

Summary of Gaps - Summarizes gaps between requirements and capabilities.







Actions Required and Timing - Presents new options to meet gaps, notes present options not required, and gives future study requirements.

Summary - Presents the updated program options.

Currently, the plan will focus on the community interface in three functional areas - exploitation, needs/requirements, and development/acquisition/operation. The quality and usefulness of such a plan will be directly proportional to community acceptance and participation. It is envisioned that the primary contribution to a quality product will be constructive comment on the initial strawman of the first annual report.

Significant milestones in this effort are the preparation of terms of reference in November 1974, completion of the first draft report in mid-summer 1975, and publication of the first annual report in November 1975.

General Kulpa will cover all of these points in presentation to the Board at their next meeting. I hope this will get us on the path toward an effective set of feasible program alternatives for the ExCom.

