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

THE NRO STAFF

June 25, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: News Media Personnel at WTR

Colonel [redacted] called me at home on Tuesday night, June 23. He was concerned about an NBC team visiting Vandenberg on June 24 to witness a launch. The visit had been approved by OASD/PA but Colonel [redacted] was enlisting our assistance in calling off the visit because an NRO launch was scheduled for [redacted].

I called Lt Colonel Thomas D'Andrea (OASD/PA) at his home and explained to him our concern. It was his understanding that NBC wanted to watch and to film a Minuteman II launch which is a Category II launch under the DOD guidelines which we recently agreed to. I explained to him that there was also a [redacted] and asked that he, therefore, deny permission to NBC. Lt Colonel D'Andrea agreed and I understand did call off the visit. He asked, however, that I coordinate an alternate date that it would be acceptable and I said that I would have to get this from the West Coast.

On June 24, Major [redacted] SAFOI, who had received word from OASD/PA of my actions, called me. Major [redacted] informed me that when SAFOI was asked to concur on the OASD/PA message authorizing the NBC visit, SAFOI, in fact, refused. I later confronted Lt Colonel D'Andrea with this fact and he denied knowledge of it saying that he had a fully coordinated position (SAFOI tells me this is not the first problem they have had with Lt Colonel D'Andrea.)

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Ma [redacted] tells me that a Major Moen in OASD/PA is preparing a DOD Directive which will implement that paper we recently staffed regarding public information release on Category I, II, and III launches. I have asked Major [redacted] to be sure that SAFOI, and inturn this office, has an opportunity to review this paper so that we can make clear our policy on access to WTR. I want specifically to provide for coordination prior to creating access to the news media so that [redacted] we can deny access. [redacted] said he would get us this paper.

[redacted]
Major, USAF

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