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**NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

26 September 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. HALL, ASD(I)

Per our conversation this morning on the OMNIBUS NSCID as related to the NRO, I am attaching our rough draft of a "charter" for NRO functions. It is our thought that if others decide that an OMNIBUS NSCID is required, it should not preclude the issuance of a specialized NSCID or other appropriate document which would serve the same purpose for the NRO. A few items in this "charter" may be controversial in view of higher level considerations. However, our primary interest is to maintain the NRO intact as a streamlined effective organization reporting to a single boss, the ExCom.

Del [redacted]  
J. W. Plummer

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**AGREEMENT  
FOR THE  
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM**

**INTRODUCTION**

Satellite reconnaissance includes all space-borne intelligence information gathering about foreign activities which may affect the national security of the United States. The conduct of satellite reconnaissance activities should be under single and direct management in order that utmost efficiency and cost effectiveness may be obtained and in order that necessary protective security may be maintained. Therefore, in the interest of national security and pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947 as amended, the National Security Council authorizes and directs that satellite reconnaissance activities be carried out as the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) of the United States to be conducted under national leadership as prescribed herein.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

The functions of the NRP include the development, management, control and operation of all projects, both current and long range, for the collection of intelligence information by spacecraft. Included are all [redacted] for reconnaissance quality, [redacted] for reconnaissance purposes and signal and electronic devices. In addition, the National Reconnaissance Program will involve the aggressive development and pursual of advanced technology for the collection of intelligence which is fully responsive to the intelligence needs and objectives of the United States.

A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) will be administratively established within the Department of Defense. It will provide the necessary streamlined management to permit

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accomplishment of an effective satellite reconnaissance program and will serve as a facilitator in the interaction between the using agencies and the intelligence community for the use of satellites. It will be designated as a highly classified separate operating agency and will not be subjected to normal review or oversight.

The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense subject to the advice of the Director of Central Intelligence. To insure the optimum common use of space support resources, the Director, NRO will normally serve also as the full-time Under Secretary of the Air Force and he will:

- Assure that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence is cognizant of satellite reconnaissance activities in order that these activities may be integrated with conventional intelligence management under his purview.

- Assure that the Director of Central Intelligence remains cognizant of satellite reconnaissance activities in order that the proper integration of these activities be made within the remainder of the overall United States intelligence effort. The Director, NRO also will respond to the national and tactical guidance furnished by the United States Intelligence Board which is chaired by the Director of Central Intelligence.

- Assure that SIGINT satellite development, control and operation are compatible with the SIGINT processing responsibility of the Director, National Security Agency and that on-orbit activities are compatible with other national directives and established organizational relationships.

- Assure that the development, control and operation of all satellites are compatible with the national and tactical requirements interface.

**MANAGEMENT**

The Secretary of Defense is responsible to the United States Government for the execution of the NRP and the

[REDACTED]

maintenance of the NRO. In addition to appointing the Director, NRO, the Secretary of Defense will delegate sufficient authority for the Director, NRO to act as his principal agent in the day-to-day management and execution of the National Reconnaissance Program.

The Director of Central Intelligence is responsible to the United States Government for proper establishment of requirements to be satisfied through national satellite reconnaissance and for the balancing of the level of satellite collection and exploitation in order to optimize intelligence output.

The NRP Executive Committee, consisting of the Director of Central Intelligence acting as Chairman, a representative of the Secretary of Defense and other members as appointed by the National Security Council, will formulate, guide and approve resource allocations and assure the proper balancing of projects within the program.

The Director, NRO will be responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the execution of the program and to the Executive Committee for proper resource management. He will manage assignments within the program, project reviews and studies associated with satellite reconnaissance. He will initiate, approve and direct research and development in the pursuance of advanced technology for satellite reconnaissance. He will sit with the United States Intelligence Board and other councils as necessary.

The National Reconnaissance Office will be manned by the three military departments, CIA and NSA. The selection of personnel from these agencies will be made by the Director, NRO. The NRO Staff will have sufficient manning to provide primary support to the NRP Executive Committee principals through the Director, NRO. There will be three program offices, one from the Air Force, one from the CIA, and one from the Navy. The program offices will be responsive directly to the Director, NRO for satellite development and operational activities and projects will be assigned by the Director, NRO to the program offices in accordance with their capabilities.

The Director, NRO will be directly responsible for the proper management of dollar resources within the program and will employ a dedicated comptroller staff for the purpose. The Director, NRO will furnish necessary budget and program data to the ExCom, Congress, and other appropriate Government organizations.

Secretary of Defense

Director, Central Intelligence

OFFICIAL: Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

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