

~~TOP SECRET~~

POLICIES AND POSITIONS
THE NSAM 156 COMMITTEE
HAS HELPED FORMULATE

- NSCA 2454 (the 18 points) resulted from the 1962 NSAM 156 Committee's findings.
- These 18 points essentially stated that the US must:
 - Maintain freedom of action unilaterally to conduct reconnaissance satellite operations.
 - Prevent foreign political or physical interference with operations.
 - Prevent accidental or forced disclosure of details of program.
 - Avoid situation in the context of reconnaissance program which would be embarrassing.
 - Facilitate resolution of conflicts which arise between technical and security requirements and international commitments and foreign policy objectives.
- The policy can be restated to put forth the views that the US position must avoid the following dangers:
 - restricting ourselves in international negotiations on disarmament and peaceful uses of outer space,
 - compromising highly classified programs or
 - providing assistance of significant military value to Soviet Union.

~~TOP SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED BY: [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED]
EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES

CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

- The 156 Committee has been of valuable service to national decision matters by studying, since its inception, at various times, the issue of official disclosure of the fact of national satellite reconnaissance.
 - The Committee's findings have clarified the related issues and problems plus the scope of revelation to allies.
- In 1966 the Committee considered the political and security aspects of satellite earth sensing and
 - reaffirmed basic NSAM 2454 policy, plus recommending US should:
 - Continue to protect NRP (these repeated from the Chronology Paper).
 - Allow NASA to proceed on experimental program subject to limitations to be established between NASA and NRO.
 - Encourage NASA to consider aircraft's merits vis-a-vis satellites.
 - Asked USIB to review compartmentation.
 - Permit non-military programs to profit from achievements of NRP.
- During SALT I the Committee studied the verification aspects of the SAL negotiations.
 - The Committee conclusions resulted in aiding formulation of the negotiating strategy regarding means of verification disclosure.
 - Coined terminology later used in the Treaty and Interim Agreement.

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE 2 OF _____ PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

- In 1972, reviewed the policy on disclosure prior to US agreement to the SAL Treaty and Interim Agreement
- The Committee referred the question, this time, to NSC Verification Panel.
- The non-disclosure policy prevailed.



- In summary, the net value of the NSAM 156 Committee has performed valuable service to the nation and its senior decision-makers by addressing critical policy issues regarding the nation's satellite reconnaissance program.

~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
DATE 08-14-2011 BY 60322 UCBAW/SMP/STP

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE 3 OF _____ PAGES