DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

September 27, 1971

[redacted]

Attached is a Talking Paper for Dr. McLucas' use in the meeting with Ambassador Johnson.

Hold for → [redacted]
Major, USAF

1. Talking paper on various political questions

2. Ambassador Johnson letter on SALT implications. (tab)

Return [redacted]

[redacted]

TALKING PAPER

FOR DR. McLUCAS

ON

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Noted by the Under Secre[redacted] of the Air Force

[redacted]

- NSAM 156 (July - Sept 71) Recommendations:

  1. SKYLAB Earth Terrain Camera approved as an exception to 20 meter guideline set in 1966.

  2. Gain experience from ERTS A and B overflights to assess reaction to satellite surveys.

  3. Initially assess Chinese People's Republic attendees toward satellite reconnaissance.

  Proceedings indicated a cautious attitude toward protection of the permissive environment and the protection of NRP technology.

- "Fact of" response from State (June 71)

  1. State could accept declassification.

  2. Would not object to downgrading to SECRET.

  3. Believe that pressures for disclosure likely to arise more frequently in coming years, i.e., SALT, MBFR, NATO.

  4. Do not see degredation of protection of technology and capability.

  A concern of ours is that "fact of" disclosure should not be unilateral by U.S. We understand that Mr. Helms has directed Inlow to hold the "fact of" study in abeyance.

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- SALT Ratification (Sept 71)

  1. NRO requested a deliberation by NSAM 156 on impact on NRP from Congressional hearings.

  2. State deferring action pending consultation with SALT delegation.

  The major thrust of ratification may be how well can we detect violations of treaty. The verification provision specifies "national technical means" which does not violate national sovereignty. National sovereignty never has been formally specified.

- Soviet attitudes (scientific) - Earth Resources (Low-Keldysh) (Aug 71)

  1. Soviets have been unusually forward and cooperative.

  2. Tentative agreements established by joint working groups:

     A. Exploration of Near-Earth Space, Moon and Planets.

     B. Exploration of the natural environment.

     C. Space meteorology.

  3. DDR&E took violent objection to B, investigations over land, which equates to earth resources.

- Soviet attitudes (U.N.) - Earth Resources (Piridov-Reis) (Sept 71)

  1. U.S. would not staunchly support Soviet Moon Treaty.

  2. Piridov expressed concern about the legal and ethical problems of earth resources surveying. Wants more U.S.-Soviet bilaterals.

  3. Soviet article by Zhukov says that national soveriegnty needs to be defined.

The Soviet attitudes are conflicting and paradoxical. Also, U.N. Delegate Franco from Italy, heading the Earth Resources Panel says that 3rd countries are beginning to raise the question of national sovereignty in the face of earth resources.

- Summary

1. U.S. faces two major problems.

   A. Obtaining a valid and verifiable SAL agreement.

   B. Maintaining a permissive satellite reconnaissance environment.

2. There are at least two major conflicting sets of attitudes which are not yet explained.

   A. State - On the one hand, State is extremely cautious in protecting technology and assessing international attitudes about satellite overflights for reconnaissance and earth surveying. On the other hand, they do not seem to feel that a unilateral disclosure of "fact of" would have adverse impact on the permissive environment.

   B. Soviets - On the one hand, the Soviets have been unusually eager to set up cooperation in space and earth resources surveying. On the other hand, their U.N. spokesman is questioning the legal and ethical parameters and may possibly exert pressure to define national sovereignty.