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157 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

December 30, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Call with Wheaton Byers, PFIAB

I called Mr. Byers to ascertain the status of NSCID 6. He informed me that the NSCID was sent back to OMB for substantial revision and that it would probably not be ready for submission to the White House until late January. He did not clarify what the revisions would be. He asked me if Dr. McLucas had coordinated on NSCID 6. I replied by saying that Dr. McLucas had not formally coordinated although he had read the draft and had spoken with Mr. Packard and Mr. Helms.

I told him of the new DOD Directive which, at the Secret level, implements NSCID 6 and establishes the Central Security Service. Mr. Byers asked me if Dr. McLucas had coordinated on the directive. I said no.

He asked me if we had a problem with NSCID 6. I said that it appeared that there were some ambiguities with regard to the on orbit control and tasking. I asked him if the PFIAB had commented on that paragraph. He did not directly respond.

He then went on to ask me what the present philosophy was with regard to design and operation of NRO spacecraft and whether NSA actually designed the spacecraft. I covered the process, describing the USIB requirement establishment, the ExCom function, the allocation of design and development

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responsibilities, the launch responsibilities, and the on-orbit control and tasking. I mentioned the role of DIRNSA in advising the DEP SEC DEF in the ExCom, the [REDACTED]

He asked me what the NRO would want to see in the NSCID. In response, I stated that the new directive and NSCID could possibly create more conflict and ambiguity than exists today under the present fairly satisfactory interface between the NRO and NSA and that confusion could exist in separating the on-orbit functions by directive. The NRO would prefer to see the particular paragraph deleted and reworked to reflect the present management arrangement.

Mr. Byers seemed to be in agreement and when I mentioned that we anticipated that Dr. McLucas might speak with Mr. Laird about the DOD Directive, he asked if Dr. McLucas would call him to relay Mr. Laird's views. I told him that I would make this suggestion to Dr. McLucas.

Mr. Byers said that he was extremely appreciative of the phone call.

[REDACTED]  
HAROLD S. COPEL, JR.  
Major, USAF

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