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Date: 9 Mar 73

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SUBJECT: Skylab \_\_\_\_\_  
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Memo from Bud Coyle for  
Fm Breakfast reference. *for*

By WCS \_\_\_\_\_

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 20330

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 7, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL GRANGER, OSD(ISA)

SUBJECT: General Comments on NSSM-72 Draft

The thrust of the paper is that the U.S. is attempting to find the best combination of policies and tactics for openly acquiring and disseminating data obtained from space which can be used to further U.S. economic interests. Tangential to this goal appears to be a goal of assisting other countries in their own earth resource interests. This thrust implies that the U.S. is desirous of admitting to open economic espionage and is not truly interested in cooperative efforts.

A paradoxical situation exists whereby if the U.S. steadfastly maintains its contention that space is free and the U.S. therefore is free to conduct any and all observation activities, other countries may move to place restrictions on the use of space. On the other hand, if the U.S. seeks permission of other countries for earth resources operations, then there is an implication that the U.S. doesn't consider space to be free, thus validating the sovereignty issue.

The options presented are rather superficial. For example, there may be merit to abandoning the ERS program for the time being. Also, there may be additional options available, such as not ever employing "operational" systems, but, alternatively, flying missions tailored to specific kinds of data acquisition for specific countries for each mission, such as those incorporated in SKYLAB and ERTS.

SKYLAB is not mentioned in NSSM-72. It should be since certain of SKYLAB's data quality will be high and the imagery

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concept differs from ERTS. Data dissemination problems may be different for SKYLAB than those experienced with ERTS.

There is no specific ERS operational program mentioned in NSSM-72. There are a variety of options available for ERS data acquisition which create differing kinds of problems. For example, meteorological data present a different set of problems than do 10-meter photographs of the earth. Is a series of operational ERS programs to evolve from this policy or should the national policy be geared to cover specific programs following their inception?

The classification of this discussion should be raised to CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET since it is beginning to border on some sensitive issues beyond those specifically discussed in the draft NSSM at the "LIMITED OFFICIAL USE" level.



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