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1ST NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

January 30, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Burke

Fritz Hofmann and I visited Gerry Burke of the PFIAB at his invitation on January 29. Wheaton Byers was also present. The purpose of the meeting was for Mr. Burke to obtain some informal comments from us as to the nature of Dr. McLucas' briefing to the PFIAB later this week. He also wanted to amplify his suggestions as to the nature of Dr. McLucas' presentation.

Mr. Burke recommended that Dr. McLucas begin his presentation with management problems and management suggestions and then plan to cover systems accomplishments during the latter part of the presentation. Mr. Burke did not want the PFIAB to become distracted and feels that the PFIAB's main interest should continue to be along management lines.

It was not clear from the conversation whether the PFIAB has been requested to make a recommendation as to the continuation of the NRP under its present structure. Apparently Mr. Burke and Mr. Byers have little knowledge of how the abolition of the White House OST Office will affect the ExCom and the NRO in general. There probably will be questions posed to Dr. McLucas as to his feelings about representation on the ExCom. Mr. Burke specifically asked whether or not Mr. Helms acted as the CIA spokesman or as the DCI in his role on the ExCom. We responded to this question by saying that it was our impression that Mr. Helms as a matter of course spoke for the CIA but by the same token observed his larger role as the DCI when participating in ExCom decisions.

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Mr. Byers asked if the NRO was too isolated from the intelligence community because of its autonomy. We responded by saying no, in fact, we had the best of all possible worlds in that the intelligence community is the only source of requirements for the NRP and that the autonomous nature of the program has permitted the NRO to be more responsive than it would under normalized circumstances.

Some questions were asked as to the exact nature of the relationship of the NRO with the ASD(I) and how Dr. McLucas personally is affected by the relationship. We responded by saying that although Dr. McLucas and Dr. Hall are good friends the staffs often times have difficulty seeing eye to eye and that the major issue at hand appears to be one of resource control. We also pointed out that with the erosion of autonomy of decision making and autonomous resource control it takes longer to make decisions and programs turn out to be more costly. We also pointed out that unless someone demonstrates a better way of doing business there does not seem to be strong justification for changing the present structure.

In summary, Mr. Burke reiterated that he thinks that Dr. McLucas should feel free to provide his own candid thoughts and recommendations to the Board as to the future conduct of the NRP. He mentioned that now seems to be the time for Dr. McLucas to make specific recommendations as to an NSCID for the NRO. Whether or not the Board collectively is in a position to make recommendations is unknown to us. We do feel, however, that independently the Board members may be influential in backing our "view of the world."

HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Major, USAF

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