



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington D.C. 20520

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September 23, 1975

TO: Space Policy Working Group (See distribution)
FROM: State/PM - James E. Goodby *JEG*
SUBJECT: Press Guidance on the Rockefeller Commission Report

The attached Q's and A's on the Rockefeller Commission Report incorporate suggested changes to the original draft guidance distributed at the working group meeting of August 27.

While press interest appears to have been restrained thus far, agencies are requested to draw upon this guidance in responding to any inquiries on the subject. Questions dealing primarily with the activities of another agency may of course be referred to that agency.

Attachment
As stated

Distribution:

Capt. R. Curran, USN (JCS)
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Q's and A's on Rockefeller Commission Report

1. Q. What are the operational systems referred to by the Rockefeller Commission?
 - A. We cannot describe any of the "operational" systems for national security reasons. The Presidential directive is designed, however, to cover all classified systems [involving overhead photography].
2. Q. The Commission's report refers to "aerial photography systems"? Does that mean aircraft? Does it include satellites?
 - A. We cannot comment on technical aspects.
3. Q. Did the CIA use photographic systems to spy on the US? Was this another kind of "domestic spying"?
 - A. The Commission's report makes clear that photographic systems were used. The Commission found no impropriety in their use. Such systems were not, in any event, used to acquire data on individuals, which was the main focus of the Commission's concern about CIA's activities.
4. Q. The Commission's report says CIA doesn't operate the systems any more. Who does?
 - A. That depends on the system, and we've already said we can't go into technical aspects.
5. Q. Does Defense operate some of the systems?
 - A. Yes.
6. Q. Does NASA?
 - A. NASA does not operate classified [overhead photography] systems. [The U-2 and RE-57 aircraft are now being routinely used by NASA on an unclassified basis in support of the civil earth resources survey program.]
7. Q. Why does the photography have to be classified?
 - A. Disclosure would adversely affect our security interests by revealing (technical details) (capabilities) (accuracy) (resolution).

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8. Q. Will the new interagency committee be in charge of all classified photography of the US?
- A. It will oversee civilian uses by Federal agencies of classified photography of the US for domestic purposes.
9. Q. Do US agencies have requirements for classified photography of the US other than the kinds referred to in the Rockefeller Report?
10. Q. Could these tests lead to the kind of improper use the Commission wants to avoid?
- A. No.
11. Q. Who will ensure that CIA will not improperly use the results of the tests?
- A. Presidential guidelines will be set and we are confident they will be observed. As the Rockefeller Committee Report indicated, the CIA has resisted requests for uses of this photography which it judged to be law enforcement in nature.
12. Q. Is any of this information available to private users?
- A. Information produced may be made available to private users; not the classified photography itself. The Rockefeller report listed a number of examples of such uses.
13. Q. Why can't the needs of civilian agencies be met from unclassified sources?
- A. A great many of their needs can be met in that way. However, if classified photography can help them, then the Commission thought it should be available. This is a way of getting the most out of the taxpayer's investment.
14. Q. The Commission seemed to favor a single program. Is anything being done about that?
- A. That involves a number of complex questions which are being studied. The Administration neither endorses nor rules out that possibility at the present time.

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15. Q. Can domestic agencies obtain classified photography of other countries?
- A. The Commission was concerned with activities within the US, and the new committee will be concerned with photography of the US. (I have no comment on photography of other countries.)
16. Q. Will the President's Science Advisor be involved in the new interagency committee?
- A. The establishment of new Science Advisor Office is still pending.
17. Q. Would we make available classified data from our classified system to a foreign requester?
- A. We would not ordinarily provide classified photography of the US to a foreign requester unless there were some significant mutual defense interest involved.
18. Q. How can the US justify running both an open and a closed reconnaissance system?
- A. We see no inconsistency in having classified systems to meet national security needs and unclassified systems to meet civil needs.
19. Q. How much better is classified photography than unclassified?
- A. We cannot comment on comparative technical capabilities.

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