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## 151 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

December 14, 1970



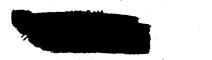
SUBJECT: Verification Papers

As I have mentioned to you previously, several papers which I have reviewed relative to SALT, which have been drafted by CIA in response to NSC questioning, have expressed an overly optimistic tone (in my view) with regards to verification systems. In the Mobile ICBM and Fixed ICBM papers, we have caused some pessimism to be added so as not to express a totally optimistic view toward the capability of our systems. Specifically mentioned have been the capabilities of and NRT. No mention is made of catastrophic failure, limit of selection and bad weather, and other technical problems which might beset the photo systems.

This morning I reviewed another paper, "Strategic Forces Survivability Study: Verification" which also deals with the SALT environment as well as with the nature of our defensive posture. This paper extolls the virtues of all of our systems, SIGINT included. It makes great claims for the and NRT as well as

systems which are programmed.

Although there was some caution interjected in this paper with regards to concealment and subtle upgrading, I feel that the overall tone would lead the National Security Council to place "blind" faith in our ability to be able to collect the information necessary for verification and defensive posture planning.



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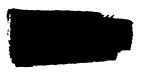
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If there is some question on funding of NRT for 1975 and of the some rurther cases a exercised in these planning papers.

Recommendation: In your dealings at the high policy level, you should be aware of the optimism being expressed to the National Security Council. In the briefing to Dr. Kissinger some explanation should be made as to the limits of our systems so that false faith will not prevail.

HAROLD S. COYLE, JR. Major, USAF



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