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21 March 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. HERBERT F. YORK
Director of Defense Research & Engineering

SUBJECT: Satellite Reconnaissance Program

In accordance with Executive direction, the Air Force is currently conducting certain sensitive satellite electronic reconnaissance efforts under the SAMOS development program. We are now extending these efforts, and have formulated a program of national character whereby this effort can encompass participation from the Intelligence Community, and can be planned in the context of associated activities within the Community or within the Military Department.

Mr. Dailey of your staff has been informed in general terms of this activity by a member of General Curtin's staff. It is my understanding that the various Intelligence organizations are prepared to designate certain individuals as working level points of contact to assist the Director, SAMOS Program, in planning and executing this effort.

A special briefing has been prepared to explain to selected persons the objectives and specialized procedures incident to this program. I have asked Lt Colonel Edwin J. Istvan, of General Curtin's office, to provide the briefing to you and Mr. Dailey in the near future.

I will keep you fully advised of the status of the program, and the results obtained. I also wish to express appreciation for your assistance and cooperation in the furtherance of this effort.

Joseph V. Charyk
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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