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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DATE: 11/17/72

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Senate Select Committee Staff Briefing

This morning we presented an NRO overview briefing to Messrs. Curtis Smothers, Alton Quanbeck and Barry Carter of the Senate Select Committee Staff. Lt Colonel Coyle provided information on the history, organization and policy of the NRO, Colonel Wheeler described the systems and their missions and Mr. Hill provided an overview of the budget. I sat in on the entire briefing which lasted over five hours. Mr. Smothers had to leave following Lt Colonel Coyle's segment.

The staff members received the briefing well and asked several questions regarding the systems and their modus operandi which appeared to be somewhat outside their primary area of interest. They also seemed interested in our management structure and in our interface with the intelligence community. We emphasized that with respect to the conduct of our affairs, we are subjected to a great deal of intensive high level oversight and are a hardware intensive operation and not one associated with intelligence activities of concern to the Senate Select Committee.

Following the briefing, we had some informal discussion about the need for protecting the information and we were assured that the Committee staff who would have access to the information would be limited only to those people with whom we are already familiar. We explained that our relationship with the Committee would be handled within the DOD as a special arrangement and we would provide information to the Committee through Mr. Latimer based on specific requests as opposed to the general requests for information. Mr. Carter

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expressed interest in obtaining some of the documents pertaining to our legal status and also wanted some copies of the briefing which related to the organization structure and interface. We agreed to provide those through Mr. Latimer upon a specific request.

In summary, the briefing appeared to have gone well. We believe that the Committee will not exhibit a direct interest in our affairs and we also believe that our activities are not of the nature which would be inherently suspect. Mr. Quanbeck stated before departure that the Committee's main interest would be to arrive at some sort of legislation to preclude abuses of the intelligence process by the intelligence community. We confirmed to the staff that we would provide any information required and that we were confident that they were perceptive of the need to carefully handle the information we would provide.

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