

17 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)

REFERENCES : A. Memorandum from Mr. Gilpatric, subject: "National Reconnaissance Program", dated 17 January 1962, with attachment. (Tab A)

B. DCI Memorandum for the File, dated 3 January 1962. (Tab B)

C. Proposed Agreement, dated 17 March 1962, "Management of the National Reconnaissance Program" and 6 September 1961 Letter of Agreement. (Tab C)

1. We have reviewed the Department of Defense proposal for the establishment of the National Reconnaissance Office under a single director, as contained in Reference A., together with the proposed functions and responsibilities attached thereto. We have also reviewed Reference B. to determine whether the DOD proposal accurately reflects your views as stated in paragraphs 2 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this reference. We conclude that they do not. Aside from the concept of a single boss, the DOD proposal contains little provision for an active Agency role in the conception, planning, development, targeting and operations of reconnaissance systems, and it assigns responsibility for technical management of all projects to the DOD/AR.

2. The following specific points relative to your memorandum should be noted:

a. Your statement to the effect that the "Agency must preserve its position in the procurement and management of the execution of contracts for reconnaissance devices" is considerably diluted in the DOD proposal which states that covert contracts for cover or security purposes may be the responsibility of the CIA.

-2-

b. There is no assurance in the DOD proposal that the Agency will maintain a leading role in operational plans or targeting since the proposal calls for the establishment of a Missions Operations Group (MOG) as a part of the NRO in the Pentagon which plans specific missions and determines targets to be covered.

3. Past experience and successes with the U-2 program dictate that the Agency must not assume any subordinate role in an organization designed to direct advanced reconnaissance activities. To assure a continuing effective role for the Agency in the reconnaissance field, we would recommend that the concept of a joint directorship of the NRO be continued as now agreed to in Reference C. In order to accomplish your aim of single responsibility we would propose that the primary responsibility for each project under the NRO be assigned to one of the agencies. To attain these aims we have modified the present agreement (see Attachment C) and so indicated by underlining the additions. This arrangement will effect a highly centralized U. S. control of these activities and bring about a coordinated program utilizing the special assets of each agency. Such an arrangement is less subject to fluctuation caused by changes in senior personnel.

4. It will be necessary to activate a small NRO staff with highly qualified personnel as provided for in the present agreement. Attachment D is a preliminary organization chart for the NRO staff and would be modified to suit the needs as experience dictates.

Attachments:

- A - Reference A
- B - Reference B
- C - Reference C
- D - Organization Chart

12/
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

cc: ~~DDCI (Tab C - I7 MAR only & Tab D)~~ *see trayed 28 Mar 62 - JFM*
AC/DPD " "

DDR/HS/djm
✓ 1-DDR Chrono
1-DDR Subject NRO