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PRIORITY [redacted]

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING OF INCOMING DATA LINK TRAFFIC.

1. NPIC UNDERTOOK A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF [redacted] TO DETERMINE IF A PATTERN HAD DEVELOPED, OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, AS TO TIME OF DAY DURING WHICH TRANSMISSIONS VIA THE DATA LINK ARE TRANSMITTED. THERE IS A CLEAR PATTERN FOR BOTH [redacted] MESSAGES; MORE THAN 75 PER CENT OF ALL [redacted] TRANSMISSIONS BEGAN DURING THE TIME BETWEEN 1200 AND 0100 HOURS; WHEREAS, OVER 75 PER CENT OF ALL [redacted] TRANSMISSIONS BEGAN DURING THE TIME BETWEEN 2400 AND 1200 HOURS.

2. NPIC PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN HANDLING SUCH TRAFFIC ARE REGULARLY ON DUTY 24 HOURS DAILY, EXCEPT WEEKENDS. IF A MISSION IS AIRBORNE OR THE TELEMETRY IS BEING PROCESSED, SELECTED PERSONNEL ARE "ON CALL" ON WEEKENDS WITH A MINIMUM OF ADVANCED WARNING.

3. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS MESSAGE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING A COMMON TIME FOR TRANSMISSION, IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE EFFICIENT SCHEDULING OF MAINTENANCE AND PRODUCTION INVOLVING TERMINAL EQUIPMENT, TO KEEP WEEKEND

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OVERTIME AT A MINIMUM, AND TO OBTAIN THE NEED FOR THE NPIC STANDBY PERSONNEL TO WAIT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME FOR ALERTMENT THAT THERE WILL BE A DATA LINK TRANSMISSION. THIS MAY ALSO ELIMINATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DELAYS OCCASIONED IN THE PAST BY VIRTUE OF CURRENT OPERATING PROCEDURES. NPIC OBVIOUSLY IS AWARE THAT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES MAY CALL FOR SCHEDULE DEVIATIONS AS IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PROCESS THE INFORMATION MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR TERMINAL STATIONS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE CENTER CAN HAVE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS WHEN YOU ARE READY TO TRANSMIT TO THE NPIC. WE WILL, HOWEVER, ENSURE THAT PERSONNEL ARE ON DUTY UNTIL ALL REQUIRED TRAFFIC HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED.

4. AFTER YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THIS PROBLEM, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CALL FOR A MEETING, AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND LESS COSTLY PROCEDURE.
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END OF MESSAGE

Declassification Review by NGA

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