

Shane

9 JUL 1973

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: "Civil Applications Subcommittee" of COMIREX

1. Dave Elliott, NSC Staff, and I discussed a proposal which he is staffing to pick up and re-define the functions formerly carried out under the auspices of the ARGO Steering Committee. ARGO has been generally dormant during the last six to eight months.

2. He indicated he had had discussions with Dave Williamson and Homer Newell at NASA, Don Steininger, Willkie Donelson at OMB, and [redacted] at NSCIC, among others, concerning various aspects of the former ARGO activities. The consensus at this point is to handle these functions through two entities:

a. Establish a "Civilian Applications Subcommittee" which would be lodged under COMIREX with the responsibility of accepting and channeling civil agency requests and requirements for satellite imagery. The Subcommittee would have rather limited membership, perhaps initially Interior, Agriculture, and NASA, with Chairman, COMIREX an ex officio member. The civil requests would be passed to COMIREX for consideration and consolidation with those of the primary intelligence applications.

b. Assign responsibility to the Executive Committee of the ICCERSP (Interagency Coordination Committee: Earth Resources Survey Program) to maintain contact with the primary civil users of earth remote sensing materials and also be the entity charged with responsibilities to facilitate educational and monitoring functions products in the remote sensing area.

NSC review(s) completed.

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3. I indicated that I saw no technical difficulty in establishing or working with a civil applications subcommittee. It would be important, however, to have a well defined (and formally recorded) interface with respect to areas of responsibility. It would be important to be clear that the intelligence community (Chairman, COMIREX) has no responsibility for defining civil agency requirements or applications, as such. We agreed this could be handled straightforwardly.

4. Elliott said that his next step would be to prepare two memoranda for Dr. Kissinger's signature in draft calling for the establishment of the two entities above. One memorandum would be to the DCI asking him to form a Civil Applications Subcommittee of COMIREX. The other would be to D/OMB asking that the other functions be assigned to the Executive Committee of the ICCERSP. Elliott said that he would send draft copies of the two proposed memoranda out for review and comment before discussing with Dr. Kissinger. He said he also would be touching base again with The next step, here, will be to receive the drafts from Elliott for comment.

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