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1 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: DD/I  
DDS&T

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Mr. McCone asks that a study be made of the most important technical requirements for reconnaissance satellites based on intelligence requirements. He suggests consultations include [redacted] the NPIC, and any other Agency experts who can contribute. I ask that the DD/I, with the assistance of DDS&T, take on primary responsibility for this study.

Mr. McCone outlines the problem as follows: The first need is for dependability in the vehicle. The second need is for wide-area coverage of the Soviet Union and China. The third need is for high resolution. The second and third needs are inter-related in Mr. McCone's mind because he believes there must be a balance between the resolution and the area coverage. He does not wish to sacrifice one for the other.

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Expanding on the above point, he asks that a range of alternatives be studied beginning from the point of very small area coverage and very high resolution, then moving to the other end of the scale -- a very large area coverage with reduced resolution. He requested the preparation of two technical aids. The first is a board mounted with photographs from the beginning of photographic reconnaissance satellites down to the present time -- with a brief description of the improvements made and the information gained. It would be most desirable if this could be done on the basis of coverage of an identical area.

He asked also for a display including a technical analysis of the intelligence which is to be gained from a range of resolution [redacted]

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[redacted]

words, whether we are concentrating on what is really needed or what the technical analysts would merely like to have.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA

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[redacted]

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