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11 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WILSON

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Permanent National/Tactical Intelligence Interface "Joint Element."

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) has been tasked to answer Mr. Colby's letter to Mr. Schlesinger of 20 August 1975 (attached) regarding the establishment of a permanent National/Tactical Intelligence Interface "joint element." VADM Rectanus has been tasked by Dr. Hall to personally prepare the response. VADM Rectanus called me into his office from a navy reception Friday afternoon, 10 October 1975.

VADM Rectanus and his staff misinterpreted Mr. Colby's letter in two areas:

1. That the DCI desired the DoD membership to include the US Commands as well as the individual services which would permit the IC Staff access to and ability to influence internal DoD policies and procedures regarding utilization of nationally derived intelligence.
2. That the DCI would use this forum to gain influence in the funding and availability of intelligence assets organic to field commanders.

I assured VADM Rectanus that the only purpose for the letter was to establish a single permanent point of contact in the DoD, instead of numerous ad hoc committees proceeding in varied directions. Also, that the DCI emphatically expressed no desire to become involved in DoD internal matters of any nature.

After much discussion RADM Rectanus proposed the formulation of a "joint element" composed of representatives from the following organizations: DCI, OJCS (J-3 or J-5 and J-2), and ASD(I). There was no mention made as to what organization would chair the "element," however, I surmized from the conversation that the ASD(I) representative would be the chairman. I stressed that the representatives must be senior people and exercise authority.

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RADM Rectanus further proposed that the scope of the element be limited to national satellite systems [redacted]

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The proposal is much less than we desired, however, the first proposal initiated by the ASD(I) staff was to decline the formation of a joint element. I believe this proposal is about the best we could expect from ASD(I) as far as membership is concerned; however, I recommend we counter the scope proposal to include all national satellites, for there are great tactical potentials in other low orbiting systems that have not been thoroughly investigated.

RADM Rectanus requested I relay his proposal personally, and return an answer or indication during the week of 13 October 1975. I promised to contact him Tuesday morning 14 October 1975.

[redacted]

Captain, U.S. Navy
(PD/Plans)

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