

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

November 23, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DDI-4916-73

The Secretary of State  
 The Secretary of Defense  
 The Secretary of the Treasury  
 The Attorney General  
 ✓ The Director of Central Intelligence  
 The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT:

Modification of the Security Controls  
 for the Products of Photographic  
 Reconnaissance Satellites

The President has approved the recommendation of the Director of Central Intelligence to modify some of the special security controls relating to the U.S. photo reconnaissance program which were established by Presidential Memorandum of August 26, 1960. Specifically, the President has authorized that:

(1) The fact that the United States Government conducts a photographic satellite reconnaissance program for foreign intelligence collection be classified SECRET.

(2) The Director of Central Intelligence, after consulting the Secretary of Defense, may remove from the special controls presently governing the U.S. photo reconnaissance program the product of such collection as he deems appropriate, provided that (a) the product removed from the special controls under this authorization shall be classified according to the provisions of Executive Order No. 11652, and (b) such product shall not reveal the sensitive technical capabilities of current or future intelligence satellite programs. The present special control system itself will continue to exist to provide compartmented protection for those aspects and products of satellite reconnaissance programs requiring such protection.

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The President has further directed that the Director of Central Intelligence shall continue to be responsible to him for establishing policy guidelines for the security protection and control of information pertaining to the U.S. intelligence satellite collection program and the products derived from it. This will include the establishment and continued review of appropriate procedures, consistent with United States policy interests, for the release of the satellite intelligence product or information derived from it to foreign governments.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

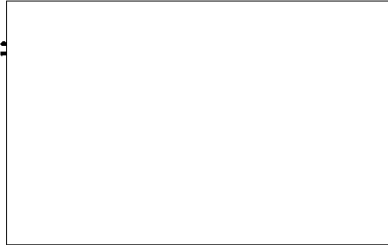
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

November 16, 1973

NOTE TO:



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The attached encompasses many of the suggestions I've received concerning the earlier draft on this subject, and I would like to have your final comments and/or concurrence.



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MEMORANDUM FOR:           The Secretary of the Interior  
                          The Secretary of Agriculture  
                          The Secretary of Commerce  
                          Administrator, National Aeronautics  
  and Space Administration  
                          Director, Office of Management and Budget  
                          Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
                          The Chief of Engineers, United States Army

SUBJECT:                   Civil Use of Classified Reconnaissance  
  Systems, Technologies, and Products

The ARGO program was initiated in 1967 by the President's Science Adviser for the purpose of testing, on a limited basis, the utility of classified reconnaissance products as a tool in earth resource assessment. These tests, which were incidental to regular operations, gave results sufficiently encouraging that an interagency ARGO Steering Committee was established to facilitate expanded civil use of these classified data and systems. In the succeeding period a number of projects were successfully carried out.

Experience has shown, however, that if these concepts are to be put into action on a considerably broader and more operational basis, a routine mechanism, not available now via ARGO, is required to receive, evaluate and assist in satisfying requests for new data. The present ARGO structure is also obsolete with regard to membership, and furthermore, with the advent of the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Earth Resources Survey Program (ICCERSP), the necessity of direct Executive Office involvement is no longer evident.

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To move the concepts of ARGO toward greater realization and to update the organizational structure, the following actions are being taken.

- The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is requested to charge the Executive Committee of ICCERSP with the responsibility to stimulate and facilitate the experimental exploitation of remote sensing by classified sensor systems, and to coordinate the incorporation of classified reconnaissance technology in performance of the ERS function.
- The Secretary of the Interior is requested to form a Civil Applications Panel which will receive, evaluate, consolidate, standardize, prioritize and transmit to the Chairman of COMIREX all requests for classified reconnaissance data from <sup>the</sup> civil community. The Panel will supply information to the civil users so that they may knowledgeably formulate their requests, and will assist in reaching compromises between requests and capabilities. The Panel will act as the interface between civil users and the intelligence collectors, recognizing that the Director of Central Intelligence will not be involved in judgments concerning civil users needs or priorities and that collection for this purpose will remain incidental to foreign intelligence collection. The Panel will be chaired by the representative of the Department of the Interior and will consist of representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Corps of Engineers, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Membership can be expanded at the discretion of the Panel.

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-- The Director of Central Intelligence will designate a representative to serve ex officio on the Executive Committee of the ICCERSP and the Civil Applications Panel for the purpose of liaison with the intelligence community, as well as to assist in planning, to address issues connected with the use of classified material, and to facilitate the acquisition of clearances for users. Since the civil utility of data is enhanced if unclassified, the DCI's representative will be an intermediary on questions of the release of derived information.

-- The ARGO Steering Committee is abolished.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Distribution list to be added at the time of final classification of this document.

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