

NRO and NSC REVIEWS COMPLETED

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12 JUN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Security Committee

FROM:

[Redacted]

SUBJECT: "Fact of" Reconnaissance from Space

1. A meeting was called at the New Executive Office Building on the afternoon of 11 July 1978 to discuss a Dr. Brzezinski requested review of the implications of maintaining the "fact of" reconnaissance from space at the confidential level. Attendees were:

- Chairman Gus Weiss - OSD
- [Redacted] - IC Staff
- [Redacted] - SECOM
- Alan Jones - ACDA
- Rear Adm. Ross Williams - OSD
- Lt. Col. James Welch - OSD
- Ron Konkel - OMB
- Arnold Donohue - OMB
- Elaine Morton - State
- Stephen Bond - State
- Josh DeJong - OMB
- David Williamson - NASA
- Wilbur H. Eskite, Jr. - NOAA

2. The specific charge for review is contained in an attached letter from Art Morrisey of OSTP to Admiral Murphy. Mr. Weiss pointed out that we had until 19 July 1978 to present an answer to the Review Task Force. Captain [Redacted] stated that he was opposed to even reviewing the question so soon after resolution, but that he believed IC would remain unalterably opposed to declassifying the "fact of". Mr. Williamson said we had an assignment to complete and that the matter had been addressed ad nauseam over the years. He suggested that the pros and cons which have already been expressed could be distilled into a straightforward benefits/risks statement in a few pages.

3. Conversation then turned to the fact that it is widely believed that Secretaries Brown and Vance had lunch with Mr. Brzezinski in mid-June on the subject of declassification and that maybe the DCI had also participated. Captain [Redacted] said he was unaware of any participation on

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the part of the DCI (I later advised him of the DCI - Secretary Brown 15 June meeting). Some participants felt the issue to be foreordained. Mr. Weiss said that findings were to be prepared only on sound reasoning.

4. Admiral Williams, Lt. Col. Welch, Mr. Williams and Miss Morton were designated a working group of four to have a paper available by Friday afternoon on the subject. This will be followed by another meeting of all members on Monday afternoon.

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cc: CIA Member, SECOM



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON DC 20500



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Monday

July 7, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Daniel Murphy
FROM: Art Morrissey *AM*
SUBJECT: "Fact of" Reconnaissance from Space

Dr. Brzezinski requested that the Space Policy Review Committee analyze the implications of maintaining the "fact of" reconnaissance from space. Policy options should be included in the space policy paper due to the President on September 1. This effort should be wrapped under Task Force VI as a sub-task and should not distract from the initial Task Force VI assignments. State has done considerable work on this issue over the past several months. So as not to duplicate this effort, I suggest that you draw heavily on the material State has developed.

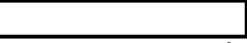
The thrust of the effort should be to focus on the following issue: Is a change in current policy beyond NSC/PD-37 concerning utilization of information derived from remote sensing systems in the ultimate national interest? If so, to what extent and in what manner should such a change be made, beginning with the acknowledgement of the "fact of" reconnaissance? Determine whether the benefits to be derived in defense of our foreign and defense policies sufficiently outweigh the potential risks. Assure that a change will not constitute an ultimate threat to national security. The analysis should address the needs for a careful implementation plan to assure that potentially negative impacts of such action are solved. Some include: consultation with Congress, Allies, and the Soviets; international legal considerations; and security plan to assure that public government exposure does not result in a breakdown of existing security systems.

Those agencies involved in Task Force VI, plus ACDA, should be involved in this sub-task.

at the time of the (John Williamson)

John Williamson, OSD

cc: Dave Williamson, NASA



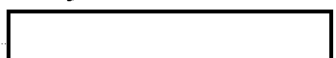
Bill Eskite, Commerce

Robert Eddington, State

Dan Taft, OMB

Alan Jones, ACDA

John Weiss



Arnold DODDAGE OMB

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John Williamson

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Ben Vaughan, Claire MORSON