

70-B-511 NRO History File

DD/R - Establishment
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RMB Memo to DCI

Subject: Technical Intel Collection and the NRO

First, proposal that certain activities of the Agency should be grouped together under a Deputy for Scientific and Technical Intelligence Collection.

1) Believe virtually infeasible, and bad organization to transfer responsibility for most Elint and Comint collection activities out of the CS which must conduct liaison with foreign host governments. Believe these should remain under control of overseas stations and area divisions in Hqs.

2) Opposed to removing TSD from CS because there must be closely unified control between development and operational use by the CS.

3) Unwise to place AD/SI under any superior officer other than DD/I.

After these exclusions: new Deputy Director shld be responsible for advanced reconnaissance projects and perhaps the PIC; possibly also some of the larger ELINT and COMINT collection enterprises.

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Not clear to him what would be accomplished by having a Deputy Director
Recommends the senior officer responsible for these advanced recon
projects be attached to DCI as an Assistant to the Director for
Special Projects and felt he would need only a small staff. (similar
to position held by RMB at the outset of Project AQUATONE when he
was Special Assistant to the Director (1954-58)).

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Just as in the establishment of the Scientific Branch and the Office of Scientific Intelligence, and in the initiation of the U-2 and satellite reconnaissance programs by CIA, where external pressure from high-level boards and committees furnished the driving power to bring these activities into being, the establishment of the Directorate for Research (and its successor, the Directorate for Science and Technology) resulted principally from the prodding of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, particularly during 1961. ***

continued to
The Board and its individual members have/played a vital role in the development and improvement of CIA's technical capabilities in the collection and analysis of scientific intelligence.

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