

**New York University**  
*A private university in the public service*

Graduate School of Arts and Science  
Science and Environmental Reporting Program

277 Meyer Hall of Physics  
4 Washington Place  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
Telephone: (212) 598-7761, 7762

April 26, 1984

Dr. Albert Wheelon  
Space and Communications Group  
Hughes Aerospace Company  
P.O. Box 92919  
Los Angeles, California 90009

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dr. Wheelon,

I thought it might help matters a bit if I send you this, briefly explaining what I'm up to, so you can mull over the situation.

I have been engaged by Random House to write a fairly comprehensive book on strategic reconnaissance and national security. My interest in the subject began when I researched and wrote a piece on "Overhead Reconnaissance" for The New Yorker a little more than a year ago (it is now in galleys).

I have reported for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal, have written three other books, and many magazine articles for such publications as The New York Times Magazine, Harper's, Foreign Affairs, Harvard Magazine, The Sciences, and High Technology. I have a deep regard for facts and don't like to get things wrong. I might mention here that writing does not pay the mortgage: I am a tenured professor here and direct this program, which I founded three years ago and funded with outside support I raised myself. Okay.

The book breaks into four parts, as I see it: technology (what the various systems are and what they can and cannot do); the infrastructure (NRO, JRC, NPIC, and the various agencies and boards that get involved in research, tasking, analysis, the development of NIEs and so forth); politics (the often acrimonious relationship between the Air Force and the CIA over budgets, product development, control of the system, and interpretation of data); arms control (is verification capability "good enough" to do the job?). The book will not be chronological and, unlike what is

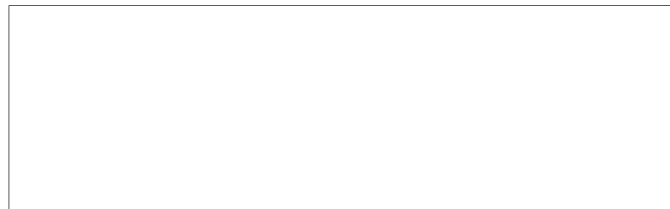
Dr. Albert Wheelon ..... 2

currently available, will be oriented toward people and politics, not machines (though the machines have to be explained in adequate detail so readers understand what the battle over reconnaissance is all about).

A great many people have agreed to talk with me, many of the former CIA hands. Some, like Pete Scoville, Bill Colby and Richard Bissell, don't mind being named. Others mind very much, especially those who have gotten into pretty heavy technical areas: I understand that they're trying to help the book because they believe it's important; they understand that I do not violate confidences. The Air Force's side is currently being represented by George Keegan and a few others. Many -- four, actually -- of the CIA people have advised me to talk to "Bud" Wheelon and Carl Duckett, and a couple of those say that you are a "must." I might add here that I will be at Beale for two days before coming to L.A., and will speak to many people on that general swing, including scientists at Berkeley, Cal. Tech. and JPL, plus former government employes now retired, and then go on to Colorado Springs to speak with Nick Johnson and get a NORAD briefing.

I hope this gives you a better idea of what I'm up to. I have no intention of jeopardizing the national security of the United States. But it's very important that the public gets to understand something of our capability to watch the otherside, and that the really interesting history of doing so gets put down before many of the immediate participants are no longer in a position to help. I know Mr. Bissell feels that way, and his recollections of the birth and development of the U-2 program are therefore very valuable (I am also interviewing Ben Rich and Kelly Johnson for that aspect).

I would very much appreciate hearing from you regarding whether you think you'll have a little time to spare for this or not. It would be best to write to my home.



STAT

STAT