

This is the version of the talking points paper that State developed on the Continuity issue late Friday. I picked it up this morning

NATIONAL SPACE POLICY

Imagery and Remote Sensing

(Data Continuity)

STAT
14 Dec. 87

TALKING POINTS

-- The Department supports remote sensing data continuity from civil systems because it has been set forth in both national law and national policy;

-- Public Law 98-365, Section 102 ("Land Remote Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984) stipulates "assuring continuous data availability to the Federal Government" from commercial remote sensing systems, such as Landsat;

-- The Department of Commerce "Revised Landsat Commercialization Plan" accepted by the Administration last October 1, and by Congress last October 15 states that "the Administration is committed to the continuation of Landsat as a commercial system," and "The Administration will plan the development of an additional advanced technology civil earth remote sensing satellite" because "This approach provides the best long term prospect for success by continuing the present acquisition of Landsat data..."

-- Moreover, the Intelligence and Defense agencies have made extensive use of civil imagery and remote sensing data from Landsat and have found it valuable if not critical in fulfilling mission responsibilities. It is our understanding that the Intelligence Community plans to make expanded use of such data;

-- When the Department states that we encourage continuity of such data, we explicitly mean to encourage further commercial ventures in civil Earth remote sensing from space as set forth in national law and policy;

-- (If asked) In our view, such encouragement of the private commercial sector does not require the USG to develop and deploy a civil Earth remote sensing satellite beyond Landsat-6 should the private commercial sector fail to provide such a system/service.