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POINT PAPER
ON
COMMERCIAL ISSUE IN NATIONAL SPACE POLICY

PURPOSE: (C) Limit policy direction which, if approved, would require the Intelligence Space Program to purchase commercial space goods and services to the fullest extent feasible.

BACKGROUND:

- (U) National Space policy being revised under auspices of SIG (Space)
- (U) Many issues resolved in working groups
- (U) Primary issue remaining is the NASA desire for strong policy support of manned space programs
 - (U) Indirectly affects Intelligence Community through budget competition
 - (U) OMB and DOD oppose NASA position
 - (U) Intelligence Community need not be out in front on issue, but could support OMB and DOD position to limit open-ended budget item of manned space exploration.
- (C) A secondary issue, but of greater concern to the Intelligence Community, is the extent to which Governmental (including Intelligence) Space Sectors are required to purchase commercial space goods and services.

DISCUSSION:

- (U) DDC supports language "... to the fullest extent feasible" in Atch 1 without qualification.
 - (U) Issue revolves around definition of "feasible".
 - (U) Webster's definition: "capable of being done".
 - (C) At face value, policy would require Intelligence (and military) to purchase commercial goods and services, whenever "capable of being done". Examples:
 - (U) Launch
 - (U) Communications
 - (U) Remote Sensing
- (U) Intelligence Community, supported by DOD and NASA, suggest adding qualifier "... consistent with national security and mission requirements".

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- (U) DOC objects, claiming that the qualification of "feasible" can be left to the "Guidelines" section of National Space Policy, rather than in this "Policy" section.
- (U) DOC does not object to our wording; only to the location of the words.
- (U) Our position is that the qualification is absolutely necessary up front, lest the policy statement be misinterpreted to be absolute.

RECOMMENDATION: (U) Insist that the qualifier underlined in the attachment, "consistent with national security and mission requirements" be included in the Policy section of the document.

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