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Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002900230001-7

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1995 29 MAY 1995

Dean Fisk

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: National Security Action Memorandum 156

This is to advise that with reference to the subject memorandum the Director of Central Intelligence will represent this Agency in the committee to be established by the Department of State to establish a position concerning the use of outer space. In the event that the Director of Central Intelligence is unable to attend committee meetings, he will be represented by the Deputy Director for Research, Dr. Herbert Scoville, Jr.

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Class. Changed to: TS (S) C
Next Review Date:
Auth: HR 70-3
Date: 2-21-92

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

cc: Secretary of Defense
Director, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
Director, Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency

Exec. Dir. /LBKirkpatrick:jrc (29 May 62)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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May 26, 1962

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM 156

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Director, National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament
Agency

1. We are now engaged in several international negotiations on disarmament and peaceful uses of outer space. These negotiations are likely to continue for a long time, and may well grow in scope. They raise the problem of what constitutes legitimate use of outer space, and in particular the question of satellite reconnaissance.

2. In view of the great national security importance of our satellite reconnaissance programs, I think it desirable that we carefully review these negotiations with a view to formulating a position which avoids the dangers of restricting ourselves, compromising highly classified programs, or providing assistance of significant military value to the Soviet Union and which at the same time permits us to continue to work for disarmament and international cooperation in space. Accordingly, I request that the Department of State organize a committee for this purpose, with representatives of all addressees with sufficient standing to permit them to be fully cognizant of all our programs in this area.

I wish to receive your report and recommendations by 1 July.

TOP SECRET

[Handwritten Signature]
CIA #1

173213

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

May 29, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of Defense
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Director, US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: NSAM No. 156.

Pursuant to National Security Action Memorandum No. 156 of May 26, 1962, I propose to hold a meeting in my office (Room 7207) at 2:30 p.m. Friday, June 1, of those who will be the principal representatives on this subject of the Departments and Agencies to which the NSAM was directed. It will be essential that such representatives be fully cleared to permit full discussion of all aspects of the questions mentioned in the NSAM.

I would appreciate being informed whether the time of the meeting is convenient, and the names of the persons from your agency who will attend.

I would propose at this first meeting to discuss: (a) the organizational aspects, both intra- and inter-Departmental, for handling this subject on a continuing basis; and (b) guidelines for a working group to begin the drafting of the report and recommendations requested by the NSAM.

U. Alexis Johnson
U. Alexis Johnson

Cc - Mr. Carl Kayser
The White House

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29 MAY 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Formulation of Policies on Outer Space

REFERENCE : National Security Action Memorandum 156

1. The Agency has been advised by National Security Action Memorandum 156 that the Department of State will organize a committee to formulate a position on the legitimate use of outer space, and in particular the question of satellite reconnaissance. The memorandum indicates that CIA will be expected to participate on this committee and that the President wishes to receive a report and recommendations by the 1st of July.

2. As you are well aware this is an extremely important subject with the greatest need for a carefully prepared position to be followed by careful negotiation by the United States delegate to the United Nations' Outer Space Committee. You are also aware of the fact that prior action in the United Nations by the United States delegate placed us in a very difficult position. It is a matter of major importance that the satellite reconnaissance program of the United States not be frustrated by Soviet diplomatic moves. It should be the objective of CIA to insure that the United States' position is calculated to permit us to continue this vital program.

3. Will you insure that the DCI's office is kept constantly and currently informed of all developments in this area. Attached is a letter to the Secretary of State indicating that either the DCI or yourself will represent the Agency in this matter.

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(Signed) Marshall S. Carter
Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

Att. - ¹⁷³²¹³
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Exec. Dir. /LBKirkpatrick:jrc (29 May 62)

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22 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter

During my conference with Secretary McNamara and Deputy Secretary Gilpatric this morning, the question was raised as to participation by the Department of Defense and CIA in the formulation of policies to be followed by the US delegation to the United Nations Outer Space Committee.

Dr. Scoville had earlier indicated to me that the Agency was dependent on the Department of Defense to represent our views on this subject. It became evident during my discussions in Secretary McNamara's office that the Department of Defense officials were themselves somewhat uncertain about their own role. It was Secretary McNamara's view, in which I concur, that State, Defense, and CIA should be in close consultation in all stages of formulating and developing US policies on this subject.

Mr. Alexis Johnson subsequently agreed with me that all three parties should participate both in working groups and in meetings of the principals on this subject.

This question is of great importance, particularly in view of Dr. Killian's recent letter to the President outlining the need for careful negotiation bearing in mind the possibility of a diplomatic move by the Soviets aimed at frustrating our satellite reconnaissance program. In the past, the subject has been discussed from time to time at the Special Group, and I shall see that this continues to be done. I believe that the DD/R and his staff should serve on the various working groups and Mr. Alexis Johnson has concurred.

I wish to be kept informed on these matters which are of obvious importance to our national security.


John A. McCone

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Ex Dir:

I need a directive
to DD/R, for my
signature, putting the
monkey on his back
and telling him to
keep DCI + DD CI informed
Let's button this down tight
with State & Defense — 