

SECRET

THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH  
WASHINGTON

This document consists of 2 pages.  
Copy 1 of 7 copies, Series A.

Dear Allen:

As you are undoubtedly aware, the launching of a reconnaissance satellite by the United States is now under active consideration. To assess the political implications of this project policy officials in the Department have urgently requested initiation of a Special National Estimate addressed to the following questions:

- (a) What would be likely Bloc and free world reactions if the Soviet Union discovered that the United States was covertly placing inspection satellites in orbit? Would the USSR try to destroy the satellites in question?
- (b) What would be Bloc and free world reactions if the United States overtly placed in orbit inspection satellites which (i) maintained photographic coverage of only Bloc countries? (ii) maintained coverage of all countries?
- (c) Would these reactions be altered (i) if the United States placed the information thus obtained at the disposal of the UN? (ii) if the United States had first offered to cooperate with the USSR and other nations in organizing a multilateral inspection satellite system on behalf of the UN?
- (d) If continuous photographic coverage of the Bloc were being secured, what effect might this have on Soviet policy, e.g., with respect to disarmament and the initiation of surprise attack.

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director,  
Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington, D. C.

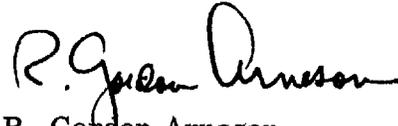
STATE review(s) completed.

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I hope you will agree that the important and far reaching implications of this problem justify this additional effort and that you will authorize this project. To be of maximum value it should be completed by June 10.

Sincerely yours,



R. Gordon Arneson  
Acting Director

Office of Intelligence and Research

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

Copies of the attached have been  
furnished General Cabell and DDI (ONE).

*JSE*  
SE

*JSE*  
23 May 1958

(DATE)

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1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL CABELL

DCI, upon reading this, commented that he supposed we should go ahead with this but asked for your views on it.

*Concur  
CPC  
5/26/58*

*FMC  
FMC 26 May*

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(DATE)

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