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16 May 1968

Not referred to DOI. Waiver

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [] applies. [] (not for distribution)

SUBJECT: Discussion with Ed Risley and Bob Porter

1. On 13 May 1968, I lunched with Edward Risley, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Space Programs for Earth Observations, Advisory to the U.S. Geological Survey (COSPEAR/GS). This Committee is considered part of the National Research Council. Robert Porter, responsible officer for NASA's Earth Resources Satellite Program, was also present at the luncheon. Both have T-KH clearances. The following remarks are for your information.

2. Ed Risley, as a staff member of the National Academy of Sciences, works in the interests of the scientific community and with many from foreign countries. He is involved with scientific meetings of various sorts to which foreign scientists are frequently invited. He is oriented toward the "white" side of the earth sensing from space by use of satellites. As a result he has had his problems with the DoD with regard to clearance of proposed papers, attendance of foreigners at meetings, etc. The attached report by [] was presented at a meeting in Texas before revision, after approval of the text by DoD. Later NRO [] disapproved having it presented by [] at a meeting in []. Its publication in "Photogrammetric Engineering" is also not allowed. This type of DoD response to basically unclassified technical information is rumored to be of some concern to interested members of the American Society of Photogrammetry. Release of the Proceedings of the Woods Hole Conference of last summer is also being held up at the present time, since portions relate to earth sensing from orbital satellites. I do know, however, that a few copies at least, of Volume I, have been distributed within the Government.

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3. Ed Risley tends to favor a separate "white" effort for earth resource surveys and is a bit unhappy about complexities of problems that might arise from the ARGO exercise.

NRO review(s) completed.

NASA Review Completed.

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He feels that major contributions can be made by use of a variety of sensors recording above the established "threshold", realizing at the same time that benefits must be measured against costs and availability of funds. He feels that, under present security conditions, those U.S. social and physical scientists who hope to keep at all current in their research in the resources field need T-KH clearances. At the same time, he recognizes that living in two worlds ("black" and "white") creates frustrating experiences.

4. Bob Porter said that he had had a lot of feed-back from his remarks at the ARGO briefing seminar in early March and was really surprised that so many attending were concerned about his statement regarding NASA's intention to carry out its ERS program. He feels that there is a good deal of sympathetic understanding of the program among CIA people, but that the DoD people just don't want to see it established and are putting up roadblocks. He believes much more attention needs to be given to policy matters inherent in the management of these two somewhat parallel programs, each carried on separately. He worries about how to sort out future collection requirements in terms of which can be most effectively fulfilled by "black" versus "white" programs. He has the impression that DoD dislikes open discussion of currently unclassified sophisticated sensor instrumentation, and heard a rumor that DoD has the lid on [redacted] Ed Risley later talked with a [redacted] representative who knew nothing about this.

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5. Bob feels that, in terms of cost and benefits, more policy consideration should be given to possibilities of letting certain types of unclassified sensors ride along on some future classified missions, with proper share of cost assigned to these secondary sensors, the data from which would be publicly available. This should result in eliminating undue duplication in mounting missions. He also feels that a hard look should be given to policy regarding retaining data in the T-KH system, and would hope for at least partial declassification, with due regard to essential national security. He would not be surprised if the President at some future time would step in to help clear the air. He feels that the benefits of maximum unhampered use, particularly in the economic field, to the U.S. in its foreign aid and in its need to understand foreign markets and investment potentials, in large part override many present rationalizations for maintaining high security treatment, especially when we know pretty well what the

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Soviets are doing in their reconnaissance programs, and they must be rather knowledgeable regarding the quality of the data obtained by our reconnaissance satellite missions. non
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25X1 6. [] The following remarks on the attached report by [] (who does have T-KH clearance and therefore, as author, enhances the security problem envisaged by the DoD) do not stem directly from the discussion at the subject meeting. You may be interested in scanning the whole paper, but I am noting points of possible special interest:

a. On page 1 -- percentages of world-wide and U.S. coverage by compiled maps of various scales.

b. On pages 4 and 5 -- under "Orbital Restraints", the last two sentences in first paragraph on page 5 and the illustration on page 6.

c. On pages 5, 7, and 8 -- the section on "Resolution and Map Scale".

d. On pages 11 and 12 -- the summarization of the "Camera System Capability" and the following paragraph.

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f. On pages 15 and 16 -- the NASA data recovery capsule as described in the last two paragraphs on page 15 and page 16.

g. On page 18 and following -- the section "Is It Economically Feasible?" The values are not necessarily those currently quoted within the MC&G community, but they are close.

Attachment



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