

M&C NRO file

28 November 1969

MEMO OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: [redacted] (NRO)--Tuesday, 25 November 1969

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1. George called to ask status of USIB action on [redacted] paper. Conversation following focused largely on NRO's problems with mapping and charting requirements. [redacted] made lengthy visit to George on Monday, 24 November, in attempt to jack-up steadily diminishing M&C take from current missions. Various miscellaneous points raised by George follow.

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2. Low efficiency factor experienced against "Bad Weather Belt": NRO running an average of only 3 percent return on film expended against this area. On 1052, however, with 2 percent of total mission film allocated to M&C, an effective return of 15 percent was achieved, all against area outside of BWB. George suggests MC&G face-up to the fact that we are simply not able to get any reasonable coverage of the belt, cancel the imagery requirement, and plan to go for this area entirely with other sensors. There's no point in the mappers sitting around hoping for photo coverage that isn't coming and formally acknowledging this will permit increased M&C returns on other non-Bloc areas.

3. Also on the point of low M&C coverage by recent missions, NRO pointed out to [redacted] the low priority assigned these targets in mission requirements--e.g. for 1108 targets outside the Bloc are carried as Priority 5, the next-to-lowest on the list, exceeding only the Priority 6 [redacted] item.

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4. George then queried our awareness of what ERTS was up to and the stage to which it had now developed. He was referring to NASA's purchase of two CORONA's for missions planned

NRO review(s) completed.

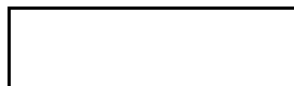
at something like 180 miles, low resolution, etc. Now it strikes George that if somebody is going to come up with two more C's, the best way to do things would be as follows:

a. Give the two to NRO to manage - this would give them eight to fly instead of the present six.

b. NRO would then accept ERTS requirements and pro-rate them among the eight and everybody would benefit - intell, MC&G, and ERTS.

c. The ERTS film-share could be sent to to process for appropriate resolution sanitization-degradation, etc., etc.

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