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January 13, 1963

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 216

TO: The Secretary of State
    The Secretary of Defense
    The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Study of Disclosure to Russians of U. S. Satellite
Reconnaissance Capability

The President requests that a study be made by the Departments
of State and Defense and CIA, under the chairmanship of the
Department of State, of the arguments for and against the
following courses of action:

1. Disclosure to the Soviets, at a high level, probably
Chairman Khrushchev, of our satellite reconnaissance capability.
(Alternative forms of disclosure should be evaluated.)

2. Alternatively, the maintenance in the hands of the
American Ambassador in Moscow of suitable material for such
disclosure for use in the event of a crisis situation in which
there was believed to be a threat of nuclear war.

The study should consider the possible effects of such disclosure
on Soviet disarmament policies as well as their strategic military
thinking.

McGeorge Bundy

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