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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

8 JUN 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Revelation of the Fact of Satellite Reconnaissance in
Connection with the Submission of the Arms Limitation
Agreements to Congress

I recommend that we acknowledge in the Letter of Submittal of the strategic arms limitation agreements to Congress the fact that national technical means of verification for the U. S. and the USSR include satellite based reconnaissance. We should further state that all of our legitimate national technical means, including satellite based reconnaissance, taken together, give us confidence that we can verify compliance with the provisions of these agreements within satisfactory limits.

I believe we will need this acknowledgement in our public testimony in order to make credible our assurance that we can verify compliance with these agreements without the necessity of on-site inspections.

The fact of U. S. satellite reconnaissance is widely known. I believe that acknowledging this fact in connection with the strategic arms limitation agreements has the important advantage of muting possible adverse reaction because the potential critics, both domestic and foreign, are likely to be supporters of these agreements.

I recommend that the President issue a directive authorizing the principal administration witnesses who will testify on behalf of the strategic arms limitation agreements to acknowledge the fact of U. S. and Soviet satellite reconnaissance and to state that our total national technical means of verification are adequate to assure compliance within satisfactory limits. The directive should make clear that no one else is authorized to discuss the subject of satellite reconnaissance publicly. This directive should prevent further progressive revelation of our satellite capabilities and limitations.

I recommend that the statement that we plan to make regarding satellite reconnaissance and national technical means be transmitted in advance to the Soviet Union, so that the Soviets will not be taken by surprise by our public statement.

Finally, I recommend that the Letter of Submittal and the package of documents which we are submitting to the Congress should be transmitted simultaneously to the Soviets.



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