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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

15 May 1973

NOTE FOR: Chairman COMIREX

SUBJECT : Mississippi Flood Imagery

Authority NWD 037
By JKS NADAE 1/10/73

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1. I visited the [redacted] facility yesterday afternoon to look over the work that has been done on the flood problem. Two graphics have been prepared on one part of the flooded area near Helena, Arkansas. One graphic was at a scale of 1:250,000 and combined a detailed land use analysis [redacted] photography with a delimitation of the extent of the flooded areas from March 1973 ERTS imagery. The annotations did not indicate the source of the former data. The second graphic was of a smaller area--a USGS quadrangle at 1:62,500--and showed a more detailed delimitation of the flood boundaries. [redacted]

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2. A report summarizing the results of these tasks was prepared last week by a Mr. Robinove, a member of the Department of the Interior EROS unit. According to [redacted] and other people in the building who had seen the report, the manner of presentation was biased in favor of ERTS. It pointed to the strengths of ERTS and [redacted] Yesterday morning, I asked to see a copy of the report, but was told by Bud Clark, the USGS TCO, that it was being re-written. Apparently, it had been sent forward to Radlinski, the Associate Director of the USGS, and had been stopped there.

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3. The biased presentation is by an individual whose past work apparently has been with the ERTS materials. A more objective evaluation would probably be that the multi-color ERTS imagery permitted a more rapid readout of the flooded areas at a smaller scale, and [redacted]

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4. The U-2 photography had been received, but as of yesterday morning no one had used them. [redacted] points out that they still need an index of the camera operations, which I am trying to get through John Schadegg and OSA.

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