

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of the Interior  
The Secretary of Agriculture  
The Secretary of Commerce  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Civil Use of Classified Reconnaissance  
Systems, Technologies, and Products

The ARGO program was initiated in 1967 by the President's Science Adviser for the purpose of testing, on a limited basis, the utility of classified reconnaissance products as a tool in earth resource assessment. The results of the study were sufficiently encouraging that an interagency ARGO Steering Committee was established to facilitate expanded civil use of these classified data and systems, and in the succeeding period a number of projects were successfully carried out.

Experience has shown, however, that if these concepts are to be put into action on a considerably broader and more operational basis, a routine mechanism, not available now via ARGO, is required to receive, evaluate, and satisfy requests for new data. The present ARGO structure is also obsolescent with the regard to membership, and with the advent of the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Earth Resource Survey Program (ICCERSP), the necessity of direct Executive Office involvement is no longer evident.

To move the concepts of ARGO toward greater realization and to update the organizational structure three actions are being taken.

-- The ARGO Steering Committee is abolished.

-- The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) will form a civil applications subcommittee to the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation, which will receive, evaluate, consolidate, prioritize, and transmit to COMIREX requests for data, and will act as the interface with the civil user community in obtaining standardized requests and reaching compromises between requests and capabilities. The subcommittee will be chaired by the representative of the Department of the Interior, and will consist of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, and Commerce, <sup>and</sup> the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The <sup>chairman</sup> ~~secretary~~ of COMIREX and the DCI representative to the Executive Committee of ICCERSP will serve ex officio.

-- The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is requested to charge the Executive Committee of ICCERSP with the responsibility ~~to~~ <sup>viz-a-viz the Committee member agencies to</sup> stimulate, facilitate, and evaluate ~~among the Committee member agencies~~ <sup>coordinate the incorporation</sup> the exploitation of remote sensing by classified systems, to ~~employ as feasible~~ <sup>of</sup> classified reconnaissance technology in performance of the ERS function, and to report annually, in a classified annex to the annual ERS report, as to the status, progress, problems, and recommendations in obtaining and integrating classified data into the U.S. ERS program. The Executive Committee will be supplemented with a representative of the DCI, for the purposes of liaison and facilitating acquisition of clearances for member agency personnel.