

26 November 1975

NOTE FOR : General Wilson

SUBJECT : DCI Response to Secretary Clements, re D/NRO as an ex officio Member of Committee for Civil Applications of Classified Overhead Photography of the US

1. This reports disposition of the action which you assigned to COMIREX to prepare a DCI response to Secretary Clements' memorandum (5 November 1975, received DCI 12 November 1975).

2. As I indicated to you yesterday, it does not appear that a DCI response to the Clements' memorandum will be necessary. A memorandum is being sent from Brent Scowcroft to the Secretary of Interior advising that the Under Secretary of the Air Force will be an observer to the Civil Applications Committee. Copies will go to Defense, DCI, and OMB.

3. This approach came out of discussions with the NRO, NSC, and OMB Staffs in which it was apparent that for simplicity, a single response reflecting joint views was desirable and feasible. It turned out that the only substantive question was whether the NRO should be represented as an ex officio member or as an observer. There was agreement, including from the NRO, that an observer was preferred. From the beginning of planning for the civil committee, it has been assumed that the NRO would be represented at the committee, but with a low profile because of security considerations. An observer would attend all meetings, receive minutes and documents, and maintain cognizance of all activities involved.

4. After the Scowcroft memorandum arrives, the Director should be advised that it represents a coordinated reply to the Clements' memorandum and that a separate response by him is not necessary unless he desires to for some other reason.

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