

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET--XGDS (2)~~

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October 18, 1978

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INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: ROBERT ROSENBERG *RAR*

SUBJECT: Reactions to President's Acknowledgement of the "Fact of" Satellite Photo-reconnaissance

The attached (TAB A) report from the Department of State was requested by Art Morrissey (OSTP) in response to your query to me of a few weeks ago of "how are things looking after the 'fact of' acknowledgement--good?"

I believe the answer is very good--compared to what the "no" votes in the PRC forecast. In addition to the congressional, public and foreign reactions summarized by State--we separately tasked FBIS, State/INR and Defense Attache Service (DAS) to provide reports. I personally have read all the FBIS reports noted in the State paper and found only a few that were truly negative in flavor. DAS reports show no reaction to date but Gene Tighe will continue to monitor the matter.

Note the first hint of a change in State's attitude toward the "Walkowicz open skies proposal"--clipped and underlined at p. 2. You will recall previously Vance opposed any exposure of imagery or information derived therefrom.

The issues covered under the "United Nations" section of the paper (pp. 3-4) will be problems which must be handled carefully over the next several months. Regarding those:

- French Proposal (p. 3): I believe that we should not change our position re non-support of the French international satellite verification proposal. Reg and Bob Putnam have previously given State guidance on why it is not advisable to turn over tasking, control or dissemination of our reconnaissance products to a UN control agency--those arguments are all still valid even with declassification of fact of. They will still be valid if we declassify some products as a next step.

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by R. Soubers, National Security Council

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- Accusations of Spying (p. 4): We must make sure that in defending our legitimate rights to conduct reconnaissance "in the context of verification of arms control agreements" we insist on the legitimacy of reconnaissance from outer space for all needs--otherwise we could be boxed into categories of uses such as political, economic, strategic, etc., intelligence and support to military operational forces, being made into restrictions on our satellite operation for which there is no basis in law or precedent. Such limits and definitions could cause our reconnaissance satellites, if used for these purposes, to fall in the Soviets "bandit" satellite definition exposed in our ASAT talks.

Bob Putnam, Henry Richardson, Ben Huberman, Fritz Ermarth, and Vic Utgoff concur in these comments.

Enclosure

TAB A - State Memo of 14 Oct 78

*Rose
Keep top of A
This is a good report!
10/21/78
J*

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