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SECRET 181230Z SEP 92 CITE [REDACTED]
IMMEDIATE AIG 711.

1. NRO CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL.
FROM: [REDACTED] MR. FAGA.
SUBJ: DECLASSIFICATION OF FACT OF EXISTENCE OF NATIONAL
RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO)
PLEASE PROVIDE THE WIDEST DISSEMINATION TO [REDACTED]
PERSONNEL.

2. I AM SENDING THIS MESSAGE IN ANTICIPATION OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE
OFFICE. ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL REFINING THE DETAILS, THIS MESSAGE
PROVIDES BACKGROUND, DESCRIBES WHAT WILL BE RELEASED, ANNOUNCES A
NEW EXTERNAL RELATIONS STAFF, AND PROVIDES INITIAL SECURITY
GUIDANCE. NOTE THAT THE DECLASSIFICATION DISCLOSURE IS VERY LIMITED
IN SCOPE. NO COMMENT OUTSIDE SCI CHANNELS BY ANY GOVERNMENT OR
CONTRACTOR OFFICIAL TO UNCLEARED PERSONNEL MAY OCCUR WITHOUT MY
EXPLICIT PERMISSION. MY STAFF WILL PROVIDE DETAILED GUIDANCE.

3. I ANTICIPATE THAT ON SEPT 18, 1992, THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE WILL FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF THE NRO. OSD
WILL RELEASE THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TODAY DECLASSIFIES THE EXISTENCE
OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO).

BEYOND CONFIRMING THE EXISTENCE OF THE NRO, OTHER MATTERS
WILL REMAIN CLASSIFIED, INCLUDING THOSE DEALING WITH ITS
OPERATIONS, METHODS, SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AND
PERSONNEL.

THE NRO IS ORGANIZED AS AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE AND FUNDED THROUGH A PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL

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RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM (NRP). IT IS THE SINGLE, NATIONAL PROGRAM TO MEET US GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE NEEDS THROUGH SPACEBORNE AND ASSIGNED AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE.

THE MISSION OF THE NRO IS TO ENSURE THAT THE US HAS THE TECHNOLOGY AND SPACEBORNE AND AIRBORNE ASSETS NEEDED TO ACQUIRE INTELLIGENCE WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING TO SUPPORT SUCH FUNCTIONS AS MONITORING OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, INDICATIONS AND WARNING AND THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. THE NRO ACCOMPLISHES THE MISSION THROUGH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATION OF SPACEBORNE AND AIRBORNE DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH IS EXERCISED IN CONCERT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, FOR MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE NRO AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NRO REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY. THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ESTABLISHES THE COLLECTION PRIORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TARGETING OF NRP OPERATIONS AND THE FREQUENCY OF COVERAGE, APPROVES ALONG WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THE NRP BUDGET, PROVIDES SECURITY POLICY GUIDANCE FOR THE NRP, AND GUIDES AND PARTICIPATES IN THE FORMULATION OF THE NRP THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF THE NRO. THE DIRECTOR OF THE NRO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTING THE NRO'S PROGRAMS, WHICH THE DIRECTOR ACCOMPLISHES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE IS THE HONORABLE MARTIN C. FAGA. HE IS ALSO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE FOR SPACE AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE SUPPORT PROJECT OFFICE (DSPO). THE NRO DEPUTY DIRECTOR IS MR. JIMMIE D. HILL WHO IS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPACE. THE NRO DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MILITARY SUPPORT IS REAR ADMIRAL DANIEL P. MARCH, USN, WHO ALSO SERVES ON THE JOINT STAFF AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS (J-3), NATIONAL SYSTEMS SUPPORT. THEIR OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE PENTAGON.

THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE HAS ESTABLISHED A PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF WITHIN ITS OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS. THEY CAN BE REACHED AT THE PENTAGON, ROOM 4C1000, TELEPHONE (703)979-6472."

4. I EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE A WIDE SPECTRUM OF QUESTIONS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, MEDIA, ACADEMICS, OTHER CONTRACTORS, UNBRIEFED EMPLOYEES, RETIREES, OR CIVIC AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES. IF YOU RECEIVE ANY SUCH REQUESTS, REPORT THEM TO US AND RESPOND TO THEM AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST. NOTHING HAS CHANGED WITH RESPECT TO YOUR CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH OR YOUR SECURITY OBLIGATIONS TO THE NRO. FOR THE NRO, I HAVE ESTABLISHED AN EXTERNAL RELATIONS STAFF TO RESPOND CONSISTENTLY TO THESE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. THE STAFF IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) AND PRIVACY ACT (PA) ACTIVITIES. THIS

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STAFF WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INTERNAL NRO COORDINATION TO INSURE APPROPRIATELY DEVELOPED RESPONSES. FURTHER, THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS STAFF'S ROLE IS TO FACILITATE AND INSURE CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONGRESS, NEWS MEDIA, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND INDUSTRY. DO NOT REFER THE REQUESTORS DIRECTLY TO THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS STAFF OR OFFER THEIR PHONE NUMBERS, AS THIS COULD REVEAL YOUR CLASSIFIED RELATIONSHIP TO US. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING A PARTICULAR SITUATION, CONTACT THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS STAFF AT: [REDACTED]

THIS DECLASSIFICATION IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP AND IS EXPECTED TO BE A VERY DYNAMIC PROCESS. BECAUSE WE MAY NOT HAVE PREDICTED ALL THE IMPLICATIONS PERTAINING TO THIS DECLASSIFICATION, MY ENTIRE STAFF IS READY TO ASSIST YOU AS NEEDED. MY EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICE WILL BE MY PRIMARY FOCAL POINT. FOR SECURITY ISSUES, CONTACT MY DIRECTOR OF SECURITY, MR JIM BOLEY [REDACTED]

OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, THE NRO HAS CONDUCTED THE R&D AND OPERATION OF SATELLITE SYSTEMS FOR THE COLLECTION OF SUPERIOR WORLD-WIDE INTELLIGENCE. AS WE KNOW, THE GLOBAL SCENE HAS BECOME LESS PREDICTABLE WITH THE PROLIFERATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE PRESERVE OUR SENSITIVE COLLECTION CAPABILITIES AND INDUSTRIAL BASE IN THIS DYNAMICALLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. I WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR GOVERNMENT-CONTRACTOR TEAM IN SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE.

DECL: OADR
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