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SECUR

TO: NRO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

INFO: FOR [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED] MR. FAGA.

SUBJ: DECLASSIFICATION OF FACT OF EXISTENCE OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO)

1. PLEASE PROVIDE THE WIDEST DISSEMINATION TO [REDACTED] PERSONNEL.

2. 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."

3. TO RESPOND TO INFORMATION REQUESTS IN A CONSISTENT MANNER, I HAVE ESTABLISHED AN EXTERNAL RELATIONS STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) AND PRIVACY ACT (PA) ACTIVITIES. THIS 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. INDIVIDUALS TO CONTACT ARE: MS JOANNE ISHAM, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS; CAPT RENEE STRICKLAND AND MS DEBBY FITZGERALD, PUBLIC AFFAIRS; AND MS MARY

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TO KINGSLEY, FOIA/PA. [REDACTED]

4. ACTIVITIES PERCEIVED TO BE INVOLVED WITH SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE CAN EXPECT A WIDE SPECTRUM OF QUESTIONS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, MEDIA, ACADEMICS, INDUSTRY, AND CIVIC OR PROFESSIONAL GROUPS. WHERE APPROPRIATE, RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST FOR SIMILAR INFORMATION REQUESTS ABOUT NRO ACTIVITIES. ALSO, DOCUMENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE REQUEST AND FORWARD IT TO THE NRO EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICE AND YOUR LOCAL SECURITY OFFICE. DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR AFFILIATION WITH THE NRO IF YOUR ACTIVITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH US IS CLASSIFIED. AS I STATED IN PARAGRAPH 2, DO NOT GRANT INTERVIEWS OR ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOURSELVES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR DOUBTS ABOUT THE CORRECT RESPONSE, CALL THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICE BY SECURE MEANS.

5. I EMPHASIZE THAT THE SCOPE OF DECLASSIFICATION IS LIMITED TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE NRO, ITS MISSION, AND KEY OFFICIALS. BECAUSE THE REMAINING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE NRO IS STILL CLASSIFIED, OUR EXISTING SECURITY METHODS AND PERSONAL DISCIPLINE USED TO PROTECT OUR ACTIVITIES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. THEREFORE, INTERACTIONS AMONG NRO FACILITIES, CONTRACTORS, AND EMPLOYEES MUST BE PROTECTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR VIA SECURE MEANS. PROTECTING RELATIONSHIPS DURING THIS TRANSITION PERIOD WILL BE A MORE CHALLENGING PROCESS. MAINTAIN PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN TRAVELLING TO PROTECTED SITES. CONSULT YOUR SECURITY OFFICE FREQUENTLY AND "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP".

6. 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]

7. 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 DRAMATICALLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. I WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR GOVERNMENT-CONTRACTOR TEAM IN SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE.

DECL: OADR

MSG CORR: CORRECTED INTERNAL ADDRESSEE LINE TO INCLUDE COMPLETE LIST

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