

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES 29 Sep 92  
FOR

DECLASSIFYING THE EXISTENCE OF THE NRO

I. Introduction

A. General

This report summarizes the initial actions taken to implement the transition of the NRO from a covert organization to one which is openly acknowledged. For completeness, it includes actions taken outside the NRO as well as those taken internally. The main focus is on those actions taken prior to the announcement on September 18, 1992. Work is ongoing to appropriately change NRO policies and procedures to be consistent with the disclosures that were made. Initial guidance was issued to assure a smooth transition. More detailed policies will be developed within the next 60 days, but continued evolution is anticipated as the implications of the steps being taken become clearer. Updates of this report will be issued as needed.

B. Report Contents

This report briefly summarizes actions under the following topic headings:

- Key Events
- **Congressional Liaison**
- Public Affairs Announcement
- Domestic Notification
- Foreign Notification
- Internal Preparations

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Copies of relevant supporting documents are provided in annexes.

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## II. Key Events

Key events are defined here as those top-level approvals that were required before an announcement could be made. These included:

-- DNRO approved an initial proposal that he sent to the SECDEF and DCI on 30 Jul 92 (Tab A).

-- SECDEF approved the DNRO's proposal on 2 September subject to certain conditions (See DNRO's MFR at Tab B). This memo also includes a summary of discussions at a subsequent DCI luncheon.

-- DCI sent a memorandum to the SECDEF on 15 September authorizing the decompartmentation of the specific information to be declassified (Tab C).

-- After consultation with the White House, the Acting SECDEF (DEPSECDEF Atwood) concurred in the DCI's declassification recommendation on 17 September (See last page of memo at Tab C).

-- OSD/Public Affairs released press announcement on 18 Sep 92.

## III. Congressional Liaison

Liaison with the Congress was conducted for the following purposes:

-- To provide schedule compatibility between the potential administration announcement and open disclosures associated with legislation on the same subject.

-- To provide Congress with legislative language for authorities needed to smoothly implement an overt NRO while avoiding chartering language that would limit the flexibility of the executive branch to reorganize its activities as appropriate.

The NRO developed bill and report language that supported the second objective above. This language was substantially modified by DoD. After coordination with CIA, it was provided to OMB for transmission to the SSCI and HPSCI on September 18, 1992, by the DoD General Counsel, David Addington (See Tabs D and E).

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On 23 September, Senator Boren introduced revised bill language. It did not contain the authorities given in sections 3 and 4 of the Addington proposal in Tab D and did contain chartering language--softened to a degree by a provision giving the SECDEF flexibility to utilize other elements of DoD for execution of intelligence functions, as cited in the act. As of 25 September, the exemption given in section 2 of the Addington memo had been weakened. The legislative process continues.

#### IV. Public Affairs Announcement

The Public Affairs announcement was made by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) on September 18, 1992. A low-key announcement was accomplished by providing correspondents with handouts consisting of a one page Memorandum for Correspondents (Tab F) and the biographies of the top three managers (Tab G). The DoD Public Affairs Office referred inquiries to the newly created NRO Public Affairs staff. The guidance to the Public Affairs Staff was that answers to public inquiries would not go beyond what is contained in the press handout; however additional unclassified information that had already been publicly released might be provided. No questions and answers were distributed to other agencies or public affairs officers. A summary of the contacts with the media through September 21, 1992, is given at Tab H.

#### V. Notifications to U.S. Personnel and Entities

These notifications included those to government organizations, government personnel, non-government personnel, and contractors. The individuals may be uncleared, collaterally cleared, TK-cleared, [REDACTED] (Some of the individuals may be currently uncleared or collaterally cleared but may be witting of the NRO because they were formerly cleared.) All of these individuals--perhaps 100,000 or so--and organizations needed to be officially informed of the scope of the changes that were made so that they did not inadvertently reveal additional facts that might be damaging. An outline of the plan to do this is at Tab I.

Messages to accomplish these notifications and explain the new rules were prepared. Messages were sent to NFIB principals (Tab J), NRO government personnel (Tab K), and NRO contractor

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personnel (Tab L). A memorandum to Department of Defense organizations (Tab M) was also sent. Selected high-ranking individuals were called (See Contact Notification List at Tab N). In addition, a message was sent to all NRO personnel giving initial guidance on personnel disclosure (Tab O).

#### VI. Foreign Notifications

[REDACTED] For

intelligence personnel and relationships, messages to Chiefs of Station were sent to provide a means to inform the US country team members and give guidance on how to respond to foreign inquiries (see Tab Q for CIA's 18 Sep message). For diplomatic purposes, State sent a message to Ambassadors and Chiefs of Mission on 18 Sep that informed them of the steps being taken and advised them on how to respond to inquiries (Tab R).

#### VII. Internal Preparations

Internal preparations included:

-- Public Affairs Staff: A small staff was formed within the NRO's External Relations Staff. Training and liaison were accomplished and public affairs materials (see Section IV) were prepared.

-- FOIA Staff: A FOIA staff was formed within the NRO's External Relations Staff. The head of the staff was designated and staffing is under way.

-- Pentagon Facility: Office space for the openly acknowledged External Relations staff has been allocated in spaces near the NRO's limited access facility on the fourth floor.

-- Definitization Plan: A plan will be developed to define those changes in policies and procedures that may be needed to be compatible with the declassification announcement.

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This plan would cover changes with respect to the classification and acknowledgement of the NRO's mission, organization, personnel, facilities, programs, and operations. It is currently expected that the plan will be finalized 60 days after the formal announcement.

-- NSD 30: The declassification changes may require modifications to NSD 30 to ensure full compatibility. A preliminary draft of changes has been prepared. If it is determined that changes to NSD 30 will be required, the DNRO plans to send his recommendations forward by the end of the year.

16 TABS

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16 TABS

- A. DNRO Memo, 30 Jul 92, Subj: Changing the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to an Overt Organization
- B. DNRO MFR, 3 Sep 92, Subj: Meetings with Secretary of Defense and Central Intelligence Regarding Declassification of the National Reconnaissance Office
- C. DCI Memo, 15 Sep 92, Subj: Declassification of Specified Information Relating to the National Reconnaissance Office
- D. DoD Proposed Bill Language, 15 Sep 92
- E. David Addington Ltr to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 15 Sep 92
- F. Memorandum for Correspondents, 18 Sep 92
- G. Biographies: Martin C. Faga, Jimmie D. Hill, RADM Daniel P. March
- H. ER Memos, 18 and 21 Sep 92, Subj: Contacts with the Media
- I. Notification Plan
- J. DNRO Memo to NFIB Principals, 18 Sep 92, Subj: Declassification of Fact of Existence of National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
- K. DNRO MSG to NRO Government Personnel, 18 Sep 92, Subj: Declassification of Fact of Existence of National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
- L. DNRO MSG to NRO Contractor Personnel, 18 Sep 92, Subj: Declassification of Fact of Existence of National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
- M. DNRO Memo, 18 Sep 92, Subj: Declassification of the Existence of the National Reconnaissance Office
- N. Declassification of the NRO Contact List, 17 Sep 92**
- O. DNRO Memo, 18 Sep 92, Subj: Personal Identification Policy During the Initial Acknowledgement of the NRO**
- P. 
- Q. DCI MSG, DTG 181903Z Sep 92, Subj: Announcement on National Reconnaissance Office
- R. DoS MSG, DTG 182043Z Sep 92, Subj: Declassification of Existence of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)

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