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July 24, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Management of National Reconnaissance Program (TS)

In accordance with our conversations, I have prepared a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and yourself in regard to the management of a National Reconnaissance Program. I also attach a draft of a memorandum covertly establishing a Special Assistant to you for this program. This organizational arrangement is along the lines discussed with Dr. Killian and General Taylor.

I have discussed the matter with Mr. Vance in accordance with your instructions and, at his suggestion, have prepared an alternate parallel set of documents which would place the entire responsibility for this program in the Department of Defense. This proposal has not been discussed with anyone else and is labeled Proposal B. I also enclose a folder summarizing the satellite programs that would be included in the National Reconnaissance Program, together with a statement of the present problem. This document was discussed in detail with Dr. Killian, General Taylor and Mr. Bissell, who all have copies. Also attached is a listing of the pros and cons of the two approaches and a statement of the overt actions that would be required for implementation.

I would recommend that after you and Mr. Vance have had an opportunity to review these documents that a meeting be arranged with Dr. Killian and General Taylor to arrive at a final conclusion in this matter.

Signed

JOSEPH V. CHARYK
Under Secretary of the Air Force

Incls

1. Solution A consisting of draft SecDef memo and CIA-DCD Agreement (TS)
2. Solution B consisting of alternate draft SecDef memo & alternate CIA-DCD Agreement (TS)
3. Pros & Cons (TS)
4. Overt actions required (TS)
5. Bound folder, # D-1153, CYS (TS)

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Copy 2 of 4 cys.

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