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DRAFT

July 21, 1961

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(TS) Management of National Reconnaissance Program

This agreement relates to a National Reconnaissance Program and to the establishment of arrangements between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency for its management and operation.

1. The National Reconnaissance Program will consist of all satellite and overflight reconnaissance projects whether overt or covert. It will include all photographic projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping purposes, and electronic signal collection projects for electronic signal intelligence and communications intelligence.

2. The Department of Defense is responsible for the National Reconnaissance Program and will carry out this responsibility in accordance with arrangements described herein. The Secretary of Defense will covertly delegate full responsibility for the National Reconnaissance Program to a Special Assistant, who will be assigned an overt job title and overt responsibilities adequate to protect the security of this arrangement. The Central Intelligence Agency will assist the Department of Defense by providing support as required in

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areas of program security, communications, and covert contract administration. The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense will operate through the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in matters concerning support required from that Agency, and through the Secretaries of the military departments in matters pertaining to these departments. The Department of the Air Force will be the operational agency for management and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program, and will conduct this program through use of streamlined special management procedures involving direct control from the office of the Secretary of the Air Force to Reconnaissance System Project Directors in the field, without intervening review or approval actions. The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense will have a small special staff which will include CIA and Air Force personnel. The Secretary of the Air Force will be assisted in the discharge of his responsibilities by a small special staff which will work directly on an informal basis with the special staff of the Assistant for Reconnaissance and with the Directors of Reconnaissance Projects in the field.

3. A technical advisory group for the National Reconnaissance Program will be established to assist the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense as required.

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4. A uniform security control system will be established for the total program by the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. Products from the various programs will be available to all users as designated by the United States Intelligence Board.

5. The National Reconnaissance Program will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal collection requirements and priorities as established by the United States Intelligence Board.

6. The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense will develop suitable cover plans and public information plans, in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, to reduce potential political vulnerability of these programs. In regard to satellite systems, it will be necessary to apply the revised public information policy uniformly to other non-sensitive satellite projects in order to assure maximum protection.

7. The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency will establish detailed working procedures for the required support of the Program by the Central Intelligence Agency.

8. All project elements and the operations of the National Reconnaissance Program will be reviewed on a regular basis, and as special circumstances require, by the 5412 Policy Control Board.

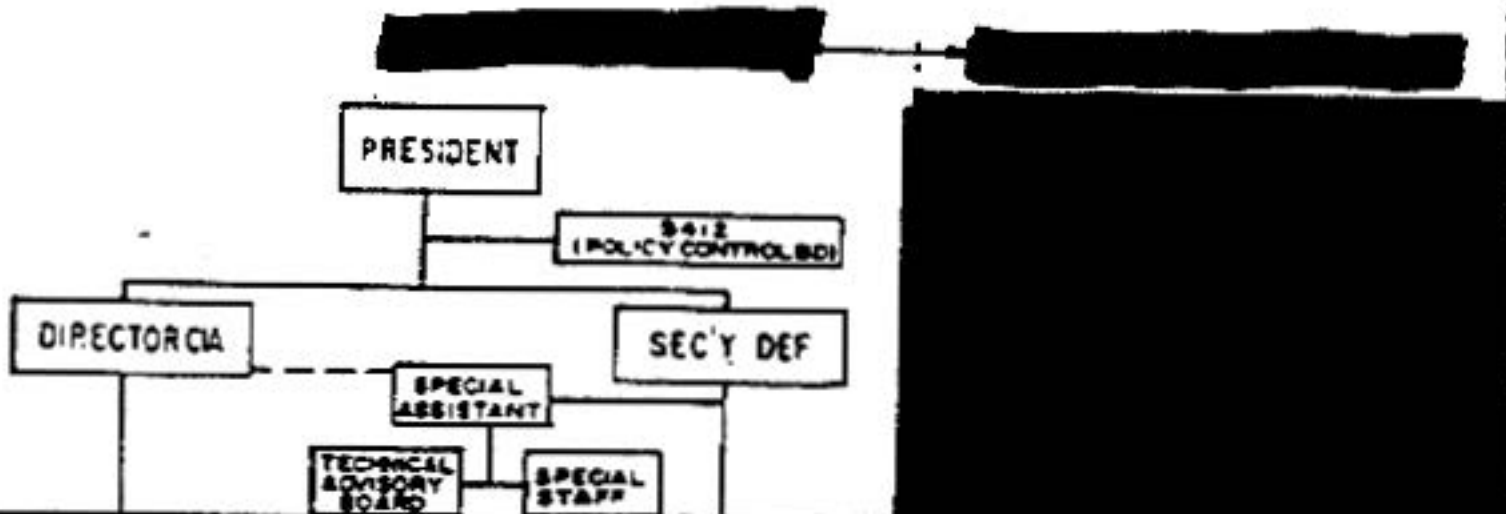
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Chart: Single mgmt for
National Recon Prog. (75)

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SINGLE MANAGEMENT FOR
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM (FS)

NOTE: The National Reconnaissance Program responds only to photographic and signal collection requirements of the USIB (COMAR)



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