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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

RELEASED IN PART

B5, B1, 1.4(D)

June 14, 2000

SI

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR S/S

TO JUN 16 P8:07

9/14

SECRET//NOFORN DECL: 1.6X1

MKA

TO: The Secretary
FROM: INR - J. Stapleton Roy
SUBJECT: Declassification of Old Satellite Imagery

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to sign the attached memorandum from the Director of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency to the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) recommending the declassification of another small set of historical satellite imagery from the KH-7 system and the KH-9 mapping camera.

BACKGROUND

Executive Order 12951, February 22, 1995, declassified most reconnaissance satellite imagery acquired from 1960 to 1972 and delegated future declassification decisions to the DCI, in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Defense. For this reason, the attached memorandum requires your signature, above that of the Secretary of Defense, before the DCI can consider approval of the proposed declassification.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Executive Order 12951 also required a declassification review, by February 2000, of all obsolete, film return, broad area satellite photography.

[Redacted box]

it is unanimous in recommending declassification of the film from the KH-9 mapping camera acquired between 1973 and 1980 at 10 meter resolution. Commercial satellite imagery systems have been selling global

B5

SECRET//NOFORN CLASSIFIED BY: J. Stapleton Roy, INR A/S REASON: 1.5(c)(d)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS DATE/CASE ID: 25 MAY 2004 200300897

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coverage at this quality for over 15 years. The major benefit of declassifying the KH-9 mapping camera film is that it will extend comparable quality global coverage back another twelve years to 1973, enabling environmental scientists to monitor change over a longer time.

The IC is also near-unanimous in recommending declassification of film from the KH-7 camera, acquired between 1963 and 1967. The KH-7 film's best quality is 0.6 meters resolution, slightly better than the best current commercial system, IKONOS, that sells global coverage (except Israel) at 0.82 meters resolution. The statutory prohibition on selling or declassifying imagery of Israel at a quality better than that available from foreign commercial sources (currently calibrated at 2.0 meter resolution) applies to the historical KH-7 photography. [REDACTED]

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Because of KH-7 film's 30-plus year age and its similarity to the current and well-received IKONOS commercial imagery, [REDACTED]

B5

[REDACTED] concurred in recommending the declassification of the KH-7 film, excluding coverage of Israel. General King, Director of NIMA, recommends KH-7 declassification on this same basis in the attached memorandum which has been endorsed by Secretary of Defense Cohen. The major benefits of declassification of the KH-7 film would be to place a detailed, primarily urban, database from the 1960s into the public record. This could be used for change detection, industrial site pollution studies, and historical studies of key events.

B5

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the lack of adverse foreign reaction to comparable current commercial imaging systems, and the specific exclusion from declassification of KH-7 coverage of Israel, I

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recommend you sign above Secretary Cohen's signature signifying your approval of declassification of the KH-7 and KH-9 mapping camera film, as specified in the memorandum.

Approve _____

A G/16



Disapprove _____

16 JUN 2000

Attachment:

Memorandum from Director, NIMA to DCI

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Drafted: INR/PModley/7-8651

Cleared: INR/DAS/IPC/CKojm 77754

Approved: INR/PDAS/DWKeyser

File Name: Declassification of Old Satellite Imagery

*Kelley
for*

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