

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
09-Mar-2011

DAC-03346-02

Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20505

7 June 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Imagery and Mapping Agency
SUBJECT: Expanded Use of US Commercial Space Imagery

It is the policy of the Intelligence Community to use US commercial space imagery to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, I request that you take the following actions:

- Direct that US commercial satellite imagery be the primary source of data used for government mapping, regardless of whether the production work is performed by NIMA or is outsourced; national technical means (NTM) will only be tasked under exceptional circumstances as determined by the Director of NIMA. You should review your determinations to use NTM for mapping with the Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Collection on at least an annual basis.
- Position NIMA to facilitate the acquisition of commercial imagery for other federal agencies that request such support on a reimbursable basis in order to encourage and streamline the acquisition of such data and products in an effort to expand the market for the imagery.
- Seek the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense and myself should you need to reprogram funds appropriated for commercial imagery or reallocate funds budgeted for the purchase of commercial imagery in the President's budget.
- Finally, I request that you take the lead for the Intelligence Community in communicating this policy to the US commercial imagery industry in order to ensure them of our commitment.

My goal in establishing this policy is to stimulate, as quickly as possible, and maintain, for the foreseeable future, a robust US commercial space imagery industry. You have been a champion of commercial imagery for the Community and I encourage your efforts to continue. You should take all possible steps to remove any remaining institutional obstacles to its use in meeting government needs. If you need additional resources to implement this policy, please include your requirements in your FY 2004 NIMA request. I appreciate your leadership in this area and I am committed to supporting you in this endeavor.


George J. Tenet

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