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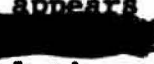
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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR


April 11, 1974



MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, COMIREX

SUBJECT:  SKYLAB Photograph

You have requested comments on the draft decision paper which discusses the problems associated with the release or control of the  photograph. It is clear that both alternatives have inherent disadvantages. The question appears to be focused upon the relative merits of retaining  as a high-priority secret national security installation versus the merits of the NASA belief that there would be domestic and foreign problems created by withholding the photograph.


doubts about whether or not the Soviets have indeed photo-


quality SKYLAB photograph in the public domain would almost certainly provide strong stimulus for media questioning and the potential near-term revelation of the missions of the installation.

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In view of NASA's concern with potential domestic and foreign problems, we would encourage a fuller treatment of this aspect in the decision paper, citing the specific potential for leaks, and the reasons for expectations that charges of withholding information are likely. These aspects should be weighed against the expected likelihood of the base mission revelation.


Robert D. Singel

cc: DepSecDef
Chairman, JCS
Chief of Staff, AF
OSD(ISA)

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