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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

November 5, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, CIA

SUBJECT: Studies of Synchronous Satellites

During our discussions of [redacted] concept with Dr. Fubini, we agreed that it would be relatively easy for the Soviets to negate the purposes of a [redacted]. For this reason, I consider it quite important that [redacted] studies examine the extent to which the [redacted] suggests or reveals the frequency range or ranges in which it may be operating.

It is significant in this connection, however, that the Soviets can take defensive action without knowledge of the frequencies on which the satellite is listening. Within the resources allotted to the purpose, the Soviets can jam, directly and selectively, those frequencies considered by them to be most needful of protection. This defense is the best from their point of view that is possible within the knowledge they have of our purpose; it is effective from our point of view by the extent to which we and they agree on the importance of various signals. It seems likely to me that gross knowledge on their part of the [redacted]

We cannot overlook the possibility that gross knowledge, if not knowledge in detail, of the characteristics of the satellite might be available to them through agents.

In any case, for a relatively small fraction of the cost to us of developing and putting up a synchronous [redacted]

[redacted]

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I conclude therefore that the development of a synchronous satellite [redacted] will probably not be justifiable. Rather, an [redacted] and relatively inexpensive [redacted]

[redacted] purposes which in themselves come close to justifying the costs involved.

As we have already discussed, [redacted]

Accordingly, Dr. Fubini and I have agreed that the Air Force will undertake for the DoD studies of synchronous satellites for these and other military purposes. These studies will be conducted by the Directorate of Development Planning, Headquarters USAF, under the immediate guidance of the Under Secretary of the Air Force. [redacted]

The (S) NRO will be fully cognizant of all studies, and will serve as the focal point for coordinating information on [redacted]

We will look to your studies as an important source of information.

Full information on the course of our military studies will be available to you and your people. Colonel Carter on the (S) NRO staff will be your point of contact. I trust that we can have an exchange of information that will be fruitful.

Brockway McMillan
Director

(S) National Reconnaissance Office

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