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26 October 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Secretary of
Defense, 25 October 1979 [redacted]

1. TACKSMAN alternatives: For SALT reasons, the Secretary would like to move ahead [redacted] I pointed out that a good bit of the additional funding would be primarily to maintain the other missions of the satellite and that the expense of [redacted] just for this purpose seemed very high. He seemed to agree with that but was interested in making those improvements which would lead to better signal to noise ratio. I told him that we were already doing some work on feed horns and receivers. We agreed that I would look more carefully at the division of expenses between actions to preserve the alternative mission and actions to make this a better telemetry receiver. He wanted to also look at whether we should do this with a Fiscal '80 supplement; I told him I didn't think even that would be adequate. [redacted] we would have to reprogram. I pointed out that we were already in problems with some of the other TACKSMAN alternatives for funding.

I understand a study is coming forward on this from CT and/or RMS. We'll need to pull all of that together fairly quickly and get back to the Secretary.

2. The Secretary said he would look for a two-star for deputy to CT. He indicated Gene Tighe was working on a plan to demonstrate the transferability of the NITC in the event of a Presidential decision to shift control of Collection Tasking.

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I assured Graham Claytor that we would be in to him soon with a paper on how we would plan to stay more involved with the Pentagon despite not moving a large CT contingent there. [redacted]

3. With respect to the State/OMB study of overseas staffing, the Secretary indicated that there were six intelligence studies required. He understands that we have farmed three of them out to NSA. NSA will do those and, in addition, will make an input if needed to the other three. He is planning to send a letter to OMB saying that as far as the cryptologic program is concerned, he thinks that should be handled in the budget process rather than in some separate study. [redacted]

4. Graham Claytor is handling [redacted] He wants another week to resolve it. He said there were some problems which they had. I told him I had only heard of one which was related to the number of clearances that would be granted. I said I didn't think this was an issue and shouldn't stand in our way, that our proposal did not have establishment of ceilings or quotas as part of it. [redacted]

5. We discussed the SR-71. I told him my feeling was monthly or bi-monthly would probably be enough. We both agreed that if there were severe weather conditions we might still want one in the near term to take care of openings when the [redacted] was not available.

He did ask whether we have given adequate attention to Cuban military matters and order of battle with recent coverage. I told him I didn't know that. You will recall that on a previous occasion he indicated he thought that Cuban military activity was a departmental intelligence requirement rather than a national one. I don't agree, though I didn't dispute it with him. (Obviously there is interest in the Cuban military in DoD and/or interest in using that as a reason for continuing SR-71 flights. I'd appreciate a response on whether there is a need for additional photography in order to take care of the Cubans.) [redacted]

6. I went through the [redacted] rationale with him. He said he tended to agree with it. He wanted to think about it more; however, if I did not hear from him by 30 October, consider him to be on board with the Hermann plan. [redacted]

7. We talked about the NFIP and next week's PRC(I) meeting. He asked Graham Claytor to check whether there was some provision for intelligence in their bans 5 and 6. I didn't understand what that meant and Claytor indicated he would look into it.

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We talked about the relationship between his preview of the DoD budget to the Congress in November and the NFIP. He is going to be in to OMB with his preview on 1 November. He and OMB will complete their review of it by 10 November. He believes we should be ready in that period to give a good preview of our budget. If OMB cuts some things out of the DoD budget, they may be available as additional slices to be put into ours. [redacted] should see what we can do to anticipate our 15 November date even in skeletal form. [redacted]

8. [redacted]

9. I failed to get a debrief on his trip to Japan. [redacted]

10. I invited Graham Claytor to lunch. He said the week after next would be the first opening. He is going to Hawaii next week. Let's follow up on that with his staff and see if we can do it. [redacted]

11. The space shuttle didn't come up and I didn't raise it. The status of Fiscal '80 budget items on the Hill did not come up and I didn't raise it. [redacted]

12. [redacted]

13. [redacted]

14. [redacted]

15. [redacted]

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16. I didn't raise the question of the new space committee in Defense. [redacted]

17. I did talk about the desirability of declassifying the status of NRO and he seemed to agree with it generally. I told him I would send him a letter proposing that we do this and how we do it. [redacted]

[redacted]
STANSFIELD TURNER
Director
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