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Approved For Release 2003/09/03 : CIA-RDP71B00508R000100120009-5

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18 December 1965

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**SUBJECT: NASA Space Photography**

During recent months appropriate elements of the Government have discussed at length the possibility that photography taken from GEMINI vehicles might in some way reveal the success of our covert satellite reconnaissance program. I gather that you have had some difficulty in establishing procedures and authorities for dealing with questions relating to this problem in a prompt way. This was brought to my attention by the former D/NRO, Dr. McMillan, in the form of a proposal for handling such problems for the intelligence community.

After careful consideration, I determined that my statutory responsibility for the protection of intelligence sources, methods and data, and the setting of security policy for the NRP was the relevant point, and notified the Director, NRO on 16 October 1965 that we would assume this responsibility of supporting you in resolving such questions. The purpose of this letter is to indicate that I have designated

[redacted] as my over-all representative on this matter. His appointment is especially appropriate because he is also Chairman of the USIB Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance and is responsible for policies relating to the release of photography collected by sensitive reconnaissance systems. With this background, he will be able to reflect the attitudes of all interested components of this agency and the entire intelligence community. He will also call on the NPIC, the CIA Office of Security and the NRO for assistance and support.

I should like to emphasize that we are attempting to be helpful to you in this matter, and not play the role of a censor.

[redacted]

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NRO and NASA

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Dr. Wheelon, my Deputy for Science and Technology, has already been in touch with Dr. Seamans with regard to [redacted] assistance in the review of photography obtained from GEMINI 6 and 7. I expect that [redacted] and his associates will be of assistance to your organization in establishing the location of the areas actually photographed and in developing sound procedures for the speedy review and release of this and other NASA space photography.

W. F. Raborn

cc: The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance  
The Honorable Alexander H. Flax  
Dr. Seamans  
Dr. Wheelon  
Dr. Cline

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