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January 13, 1963

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 216

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Study of Disclosure to Russians of U. S. Satellite
Reconnaissance Capability

The President requests that a study be made by the Departments of State and Defense and CIA, under the chairmanship of the Department of State, of the arguments for and against the following courses of action:

1. Disclosure to the Soviets, at a high level, probably Chairman Khrushchev, of our satellite reconnaissance capability. (Alternative forms of disclosure should be evaluated.)

2. Alternatively, the maintenance in the hands of the American Ambassador in Moscow of suitable material for such disclosure for use in the event of a crisis situation in which there was believed to be a threat of nuclear war.

The study should consider the possible effects of such disclosure on Soviet disarmament policies as well as their strategic military thinking.

McGeorge Bundy

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6-1-95
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