

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA

CONTROL SYSTEM
TALENT-KEYIC

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Enclosure
USIB-D-46. 2/35
24 June 1974
Limited Distribution

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

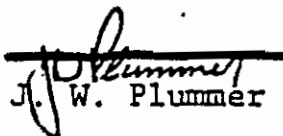
SUBJECT: Security Requirements for the NRO

Attached is the final report of the working group which has been deliberating the security needs of the NRO. Needless to say, the transitory nature of the problem, which has been brought about by successive disclosures, has required several re-examinations of the original conclusions and has considerably drawn out the completion of the final report.

The Committee adopted the procedure of selecting a number of options of increasing declassification, then examined each option in detail. Discussion of these options, with pros and cons is well done. The report indicates that it was not possible either within the Committee or the reviewing senior group to arrive at a unanimous opinion on the recommended declassification option. Therefore, they offer no unanimous solution. On the other hand, they have simply stated, and offer advice to the proper authorities, on a general course of action.

It is my opinion, as DNRO, that it is entirely appropriate to acknowledge the National Reconnaissance Office and initials "NRO" based in large part on the fact that this has appeared many times in the press and has been released officially this year. Also, I feel it appropriate that we maintain an active interface with appropriate members of Congress to keep them advised on the key programs. I do not believe, however, that we should release officially the "fact of" satellite reconnaissance even though many have surmised that it is the basis for "national technical means for verification." I see little to be gained by admitting our process and much to be lost by third country official complaints or by the confusion which would result by our security inhibitions preventing proper answers to the series of questions which would be bound to follow.

19 June 1974
Attachment


J. W. Plummer

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