

Department of State

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SUBJECT: DECLASSIFICATION OF EXISTENCE OF THE NATIONAL
RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO)

1. (S) TODAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1992 THE US DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY THE EXISTENCE OF THE
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO), A FACT THAT WAS
FORMERLY CLASSIFIED WITHIN COMPARTMENTED SECURITY
CHANNELS. DOD HAS HANDLED THIS IN A LOW-KEY MANNER AND
IS EXPECTING A RELATIVELY LOW-KEY RESPONSE FROM THE
PUBLIC, THE MEDIA, AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

2. (S) SINCE MOST INFORMATION ABOUT THE NRO WILL

CONTINUE TO BE CLASSIFIED, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES SHOULD
BE CONFINED TO INFORMATION OFFICIALLY RELEASED BY DOD.
IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUESTED, PUBLIC OR MEDIA
INQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO A NEWLY-FORMED NRO PUBLIC
AFFAIRS STAFF, WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO RESPOND ON
THIS SUBJECT. ANY QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES NOT
ANSWERED BY DOD'S PUBLIC RELEASE, OR NOT APPROPRIATE FOR
DIRECT INQUIRY TO THE NRO'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF, SHOULD
BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON

3. (U) THE TEXT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED DOD ANNOUNCEMENT
IS QUOTED BELOW:

BEGIN QUOTE: DON ATWOC) DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
TODAY ANNOUNCED THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF
THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE. THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFICE WAS DECLASSIFIED:
THERE IS A NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO)
ORGANIZED AS AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
FUNDED THROUGH A PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL
RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM (NRP), WHICH IS THE SINGLE
NATIONAL PROGRAM TO MEET U.S. GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE
NEEDS THROUGH SPACEBORNE AND ASSIGNED AIRBORNE
RECONNAISSANCE.

THE MISSION OF THE NRO IS TO ENSURE THAT THE U.S. HAS
THE TECHNOLOGY AND SPACEBORNE AND AIRBORNE ASSETS NEEDED

TO ACQUIRE INTELLIGENCE WORLD-WIDE INCLUDING TO SUPPORT
SUCH FUNCTIONS AS MONITORING OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
INDICATIONS AND WARNING AND THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT OF
MILITARY OPERATIONS. THE NRO ACCOMPLISHES THIS MISSION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND
OPERATION OF SPACEBORNE AND AIRBORNE DATA COLLECTION
SYSTEMS.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS THE ULTIMATE
RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH IS EXERCISED IN CONCERT WITH THE
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE FOR MANAGEMENT AND
OPERATION OF THE NRO, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NRO
REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY. THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ESTABLISHES THE COLLECTION
PRIORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TARGETING OF NRP
OPERATIONS AND THE FREQUENCY OF COVERAGE; APPROVES ALONG
WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THE NRP BUDGET; PROVIDES
SECURITY POLICY GUIDANCE FOR THE NRP, AND GUIDES AND
PARTICIPATES IN THE FORMULATION OF THE NRP THROUGH THE
DIRECTOR OF THE NRO. THE DIRECTOR OF THE NRO HAS
RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTING THE NRO'S PROGRAMS, WHICH

THE DIRECTOR ACCOMPLISHES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.
THE DIRECTOR OF THE NRO IS MARTIN C. FACA. THE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NRO IS MR. JIMMIE B. HILL. THE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NRO FOR MILITARY SUPPORT IS REAR
ADMIRAL DANIEL P. MARCH, USN.
THE ADDRESS FOR THE NRO IS:
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
THE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1000

TELEPHONE (703) 678-6472

NO OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO THE NATIONAL
RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE WAS DECLASSIFIED. END QUOTE.
EAGLEBURGER

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