

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
Security Committee

SECOM-D-706

7 November 1979

NOTE FOR: Chairman, DCI Security Committee

1. On 5 November [redacted] visited me to ask if SECOM would take on a task of preparing a plan from the DCI to SecDef Brown on how to surface the NRO. The tasking requirement arose from a memo for the record prepared by the DCI following his meeting the week of 22 October with Brown. DCI proposed and Brown was not "negative to" the idea and asked the DCI for a how-to-it proposal.

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2. Background: [redacted] included this proposal in his end of tour letter to the DCI. [redacted] had also included idea of declassifying NRO in his discussion with the DCI on easing up on compartmentation controls to facilitate implementation of APEX. On seeing the DCI's note of conversation with Brown, Ben Evans elected to task CTS to prepare the details of how to surface the NRO. CT sat on it for a week and then returned it to Evans with a claim that they couldn't do the job. They suggested it be assigned to SECOM instead. This led [redacted] to me.

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I didn't reject the task but proposed that it should and would be better addressed by a larger group than SECOM, to include reps of Dirks' office, the NRO, [redacted] office and probably CTS. [redacted] left to discuss with Evans.

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I contacted [redacted] Told him of this situation. He said that there was already some action going. Seems DCI sent a short note to [redacted] after reading [redacted]'s end of tour letter, endorsing [redacted] suggestion to open up the NRO, and proposing that, in his new job in the Air Force, [redacted] just do this quietly. [redacted] passed his proposal and the DCI's endorsement to [redacted]'s office and the NRO. [redacted]'s office is point man. [redacted] NRO, is supposedly helping but in truth is just stalling and doing nothing. [redacted] is out of it except for what the gossip circuit brings to him. His opinion - nothing will be done by the NRO and [redacted] will not push the issue.

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When I passed this info to [redacted] on 8 November he said that he had already decided with Evans that CTS should be required to continue drafting up a plan the DCI can send to Brown. Dirks had been consulted and he prepared a rambling paper for the DCI suggesting that a careful study be made of the advantages and disadvantages. No comment back from DCI as of 8 November. [redacted] has gone to Zeke Zelmer and given him instructions to work up a plan incorporating Dirks suggestion and to check with the Security Committee before sending it to the DCI. [redacted] said he would dig up the DCI's endorsement note to [redacted] and pass to Zelmer the information about [redacted] involvement.

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3. As of now, there is nothing for SECOM other than the coordination task noted above. Sorry for the length of this note but I'm sure this issue will come up in your talks and you should be aware of the matter from both of your views, D/Security and C/SECOM.

[redacted]

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Chief, CSG

Distribution:  
Orig - Addressee  
1 - SECOM Chrono  
1 - SECOM Subject

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SECOM, [redacted] (11/7/79)