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**NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**

THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON D.C. 20301-1000

September 18, 1992

**MEMORANDUM FOR NFIB PRINCIPALS**

**SUBJECT: Declassification of Fact of Existence of National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**

~~(SAR)~~ Please provide the widest dissemination to TALENT-KEYHOLE briefed personnel.

(U) I anticipate that on Sept 18, 1992, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) will formally acknowledge the existence of the NRO. OSD will release the following memorandum, which will become unclassified at the time of release:

Donald Atwood, 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 US government intelligence needs through spaceborne and assigned airborne reconnaissance. The mission of the NRO is to ensure that the US has the technology and spaceborne and airborne assets needed to acquire intelligence worldwide, 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 the 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 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 Central Intelligence Agency.

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The Director of the NRO is Martin C. Faga. The Deputy Director of the NRO is Mr. Jimmie D. Hill. The Deputy Director of NRO for Military Support is Rear Admiral Daniel P. March, USN.

The address of the NRO is:

National Reconnaissance Office  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301 - 1000  
Phone: (703) 979-6472

No other information relating to the National Reconnaissance Office was declassified.\*

~~(S/TK)~~ To respond to information requests in a consistent manner, I have established an External Relations staff responsible for Legislative Liaison, Public Affairs, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) activities. This staff will provide the necessary internal NRO coordination to ensure appropriately developed responses. Further, the External Relations staff's role is to facilitate and ensure consistent communication with the Congress, news media, government agencies, and industry. Primary contacts are: Ms Joanne Isham, Director of External Relations; Capt Renee Strickland and Ms Debby Fitzgerald, Public Affairs; and Ms Mary Jo Kingsley, FOIA/PA. Secure telephones are: Red 855-1016, Green 9-1-855-1016, STU-III Secure Voice/Secure FAX (703) 892-1128.

(U) Your activities may receive a wide spectrum of questions from the general public, media, academics, industry, and civic or professional groups. Please advise your staffs to respond in the following manner:

\* We are aware of the recent press announcement regarding the NRO. We have been asked to refer you to the NRO External Relations office for a response. Their phone number is: (703) 979-6472.\* However, if you wish to provide an answer limited to the specific information contained in the press release, please provide my External Relations office with a courtesy copy of your response. I ask that you do not schedule interviews concerning satellite reconnaissance activities until we publish specific security guidance.

~~(S/TK)~~ I emphasize that this is a very limited declassification of the existence of the NRO, its mission, and key officials. Because the remaining information pertaining to the NRO is still classified, our security methods and discipline used to protect our activities will remain unchanged for now. Therefore, contacts with NRO facilities, contractors, and employees should continue to be made via secure means.

~~(S/TK)~~ This declassification is a significant step and is expected to be a very dynamic process. We will provide additional guidance when available. Because we may not have predicted all the implications pertaining to this declassification, I welcome

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your suggestions. Our entire staff is ready to assist you as needed. My External Relations office is the NRO primary focal point. For security issues, please contact my Director of Security, Mr Jim Boley (Red 855-1014, STU-III (703) 614-1339); or his Deputy for Security Policy and Operational Support, Col Fred Riccardi (Red 855-3252, STU-III (703) 614-1339; or, in the Pentagon, his deputy, [REDACTED] (Red 841-1036, or STU-III (703) 614-1141).

(U) I appreciate your support and assistance as we take the steps necessary for this transition.

[REDACTED]

MARTIN C. FAGA

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