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SAFRDR/Mr Ross/bss/55067/7 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTELLIGENCE)

SUBJECT: DSAP Review (U)

This is in response to your memorandum of May 22, 1972, subject: DSAP Review.

I concur that DSAP raw product could be declassified for release to NOAA on a selective basis. As DOC attains the capability for high resolution product, it seems feasible to consider declassifying additional DSAP raw product and proceed to a joint management scheme of a National system in which DOD would perform most of the low orbiting tasks in support of military operations and DOC would concentrate their efforts on the geosynchronous function.

Prior to any actual declassification action and pending completed action by the U. S. Communications Security Board to modify existing National policy, I will initiate the development of procedures to enable distribution of the declassified raw DSAP product. The declassification of DSAP raw product must be selective so as to continue to protect specific special mission requirements relating to coverage of geographical regions of tactical and strategic interest.

I also concur in the recommendation that a joint DOD/DOC group be formed to develop a plan for an integrated National system. This group should explore methods to insure maximum complementarity of the DSAP and NOAA components, adequate responsiveness to DOD requirements, elimination of duplication of effort, both in R&D and operations, and exploitation of opportunities for joint economics. I will be pleased to furnish the Chairman for the joint DOD/DOC group.

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