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111-NASA

21 APR 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: NASA Ocean Dynamics Satellite (SEASAT-A)

Within the Department of Defense we have under way a broad examination of policy implications posed by NASA's civil earth observation programs. One of the programs requiring immediate attention is SEASAT-A. NASA is now holding in abeyance for the next month or so all activity on SEASAT-A relating to procurements, commitments on the instrument complement, and international requests for participation until the DoD and NASA can jointly examine program options. An understanding of the military consideration relating to this program is essential before any detailed options and policy discussions can be held with NASA.

It is therefore requested that you provide a military position on the NASA SEASAT-A program. The attached table shows the possible sensor complement, potential problems associated with the sensors and the overall program, and questions needing answers. Your formal response treating the military utility as well as the concerns raised by the questions on the table is requested by 12 May 1975. An information briefing to me prior to your formal response may be necessary to expedite our deliberations and assure that we do not delay NASA's program unnecessarily.

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: FEB 26 2014

Robert S. Cooper
Assistant Director
Space & Advanced Systems

Attachment

[Redacted]
[Redacted] / 21 Apr 75
OAD(S&AS)/X-[Redacted]

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5U.S.C. 5552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 26 FEB 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: 5U.S.C. 5552(b)(6)
MDR: 13-M-4632

65D 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

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SEASAT-A

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: FEB 26 2014

SENSOR	POTENTIAL PROBLEM	QUESTION
COMPRESSED PULSE PRECISION RADAR ALTIMETER	GEOID INPUT TO SATELLITE/MISSILE INERTIAL SYSTEMS CONTINENTAL POINT-POSITIONING ACCURACY	HOW MUCH OF AN IMPROVEMENT FOR FOREIGN SYSTEMS? OPERATIONAL THREAT INCREASE?
FIVE-FREQUENCY SCANNING MICROWAVE RADIOMETER	THERMAL CURRENT ANALYSIS FOR ASW TACTICS	WHAT IS NATURE OF USE? DEGREE OF THREAT INCREASE TO FRIENDLY FORCES?
MICROWAVE WIND SCATTEROMETER	-----	
SYNTHETIC APERTURE COHERENT IMAGING RADAR	RESOLUTION POTENTIAL = 22 FEET OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE - SURFACE SHIP DETECTION (CLASSIFICATION) - SUBMARINE INTERNAL WAVE DETECTION ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT/ICE SURVEILLANCE - ICE LEADS (SURFACE/SUB/ASW TACTICS) - ICE THICKNESS (SURFACE/SUB/ASW TACTICS) HARBOR/LAND IMAGING NEAR SHORE DEPTHS	TO WHAT DEGREE IS OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE THREAT? WHAT IS R&D ADVANTAGE TO OPPOSING SIDE? WILL MILITARY POTENTIAL BE OBVIOUS? CAN AMPHIBIOUS DATA BE ASSEMBLED? ARE NATIONAL MINIMA EXCEEDED? WHAT IS DEGREE OF THREAT TO FRIENDLY FORCES?
VISIBLE-INFRARED SCANNING RADIOMETER	IS POTENTIAL FOR SURFACE MELVIN WAVE AND SUB INTERNAL WAVE DETECTION	WHAT IS DEGREE OF THREAT TO FRIENDLY FORCES?

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Auth: DA
Date: 11/11/03
Ch: Declass Div~~

OVERALL		
NEAR-REAL-TIME OPERATIONS	TRACKING/UPDATING/REACQUIRING	IS OPERATIONAL TIMELINESS POSSIBLE? IS REVISIT TIME EFFECTIVE? DOES IT REVEAL R&D POTENTIAL?
TECHNOLOGY	APPLICATION TO SPACE	DOES IT REVEAL NATIONAL CAPABILITIES?
APPLICATION	USE OF RESULTS	DOES IT DO "FOR FREE" THE OTHER SIDE'S R&D? WILL IT PROVIDE THE OTHER SIDES WITH OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE INSIGHTS FOR APPLICATION?
"ACTIVE" OPERATIONS	UN DEBATES	WILL UN NECESSARY PUBLIC ANTI-PATHY BE GENERATED TO NEGATE POTENTIAL NATIONAL VERIFICATION EFFORTS?
ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE	ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE	TO WHAT DEGREE IS IT POSSIBLE AND OF UTILITY?

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EXEMPTION CATEGORY III
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