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111-NASA

Mr. Charles W. Mathews
Associate Administrator for Applications
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

Office of the Secretary of Defense S.U.S.C. 5552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 26 FEB 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: x Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: S.U.S.C. 5552(b)(6)
MDR: 13-M-4633

Dear Chuck:

Jim Plummer is sending a letter to NASA indicating that there is no reason why you should not proceed with the development, procurement, and integration of the proposed sensors and spacecraft for the SEASAT-A mission.

The technology involved in SEASAT-A is not a matter of concern to the Department of Defense. However, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended to the Secretary of Defense that because of the potential military utility, the data from SEASAT-A be protected so as to deny any possible military exploitation by foreign powers.

The draft memorandum for the record which you prepared and sent over on May 19, 1975, identifying areas of military/intelligence concerns and possible NASA responses thereto, suggests that necessary agreements can be reached on SEASAT-A data protection. However, you should not foreclose the option in your early procurement actions on the spacecraft to include some data encryption provision in the downlink. Action by the Space Policy Committee now being set up within the NSC is appropriate to better define details of such an agreement and consider the views of State and NOAA. I understand Jim Plummer plans to ask this Committee to produce a document for joint approval by September 1, 1975.

Sincerely,
[Redacted]

John B. Walsh
Deputy Director
Strategic & Space Systems

OSD 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

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