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19 JAN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT

SUBJECT: Net Assessment of Military Space Activities (U)

(U) The following comments are provided for your consideration as a follow-up to our recent discussion on the above subject.

●) As I remarked earlier, we have made considerable progress in the past year in understanding the basic military value of the Soviet satellites, and from this have been able to construct a sensible set of requirements for the development of our ASAT interceptor system. However, we presently lack a clear understanding of the national importance of satellite systems to the U.S. and Soviets for various conflict situations, and this limits us in our ability to tie down such operational requirements as ASAT negation timelines, weapon basing, and weapon inventory. Not fully understanding the value of U.S. systems at different conflict levels also hinders us from planning a comprehensive and balanced satellite survivability program.

●) Specifically, we have a pressing need to gain an understanding of the plausible satellite engagement scenarios that might take place for various levels of conflict. This requires that we:

- o develop an understanding of both the utility and dependency of all U.S. space systems (Air Force, Navy, commercial, reconnaissance) for various conflict situations,
- o further our understanding of Soviet systems utility and dependence,
- o assess the degradation in military capability as a function of the type and number of U.S. or Soviet satellites negated, and

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- o consider the operational doctrine, strategy, and tactics that the two sides might employ.

This is by no means an all inclusive list, but it gives an indication of the sort of analysis that I think would be extremely helpful in impacting our satellite survivability and anti-satellite programs.

I think that it would be extremely useful if you conducted a net assessment of space systems and I therefore offer my encouragement. If I or my staff can be of assistance in formulating or conducting such an effort, please do not hesitate to call.

col Sy
 S. L. Zeiberg
 Deputy Under Secretary
 Strategic and Space Systems

MR. [redacted]/pjb/18JAN79
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OSD) 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

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