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78-1554

#79

111-NASA

14 APR 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: NASA Ocean Dynamics Satellite, SEASAT-A (U)

(S) Reference is made to MJCS 64-76 of 1 March 1976, same subject, which conveyed to the Secretary of Defense a refined position with respect to the SEASAT-A Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). This refinement, based on the determination that the SEASAT-A SAR program, in itself, does not pose a military threat, resulted in part from the conclusion that the ground stations, and the attendant SAR coverage with each, are limited in scope, thereby limiting a detection and tracking capability. An exception was that addition of foreign based ground stations, except Canadian, could provide an expanded detection and tracking capability thereby requiring a reassessment of the conclusion.

(U) Attachments 1 and 2 are proposals from the European Space Agency (ESA) for SEASAT-A ground readout stations in the Canary Islands and at Oakhanger, England. The area of ground coverage for both stations is shown in Attachment 3. The Oakhanger proposal has been approved by NASA.

(U) In view of these prospective foreign ground stations, it is requested that the JCS position with respect to the SEASAT-A SAR program as stated in the referenced memorandum be reviewed for currency. Comments are requested by 3 May 1978. Point of contact on my staff is Captain Harry L. Bixby, USN, X56188.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 20 JUN 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
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Reason: _____
MDR: 13 -M- 4678

SIGNED

Ross N. Williams
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems

Attachments See

HL Bixby/jw/13 Apr 78 H3
OD(SAS)/X56188

D(SAS) H

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
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