

#80

~~SECRET~~

78-0748

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 19 JUN 2014 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 13 -M- 4679

111-NASA  
X- 209 SEASAT

23 FEB 1978

Mr. Francis L. Williams  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20546

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: 19 JUN 2014

Dear Frank,

(U) In response to your letter of 23 February 1978 concerning the threatened delay to real time transmission of SEASAT-A data collected at NASA's Madrid receiving station to Fleet Numerical Weather Central, Monterey, the following information is provided.

(U) The impact on our planned use of radar altimeter data in support of DMA's geodesy programs will be significant if SEASAT-A data collected at the Madrid site is not received at FNWC Monterey within 12 hours. This is so because of DMA's reliance on FNWC for initial altimeter data processing and FNWC's need to process satellite data on line in near-real time in order to accommodate this task while continuing to perform their regular operations.

(U) Approximately 25% of the worldwide data is expected to be received at the Madrid site. If FNWC were not able to preprocess this data for DMA, it could result in a 3 to 6 month delay in receipt of the data in a form useful for application by DMA activities. To accomplish the processing which would otherwise be done at FNWC, we would have to make an outlay of slightly over one million dollars. This additional amount would be necessary for the purchase of additional hardware (\$150K); software modification, increased manpower (\$175K), and increased computer time (\$700K).

(S) An additional impact which cannot be assigned a dollar amount involves the potential effect to the end user. Gravity data derived from SEASAT-A altimetry could be delayed 6 to 12 months. The flexibility of support to permit extension of TRIDENT operational areas would be diminished accordingly.

(U) As you know, DoD sees great value in the availability of worldwide SEASAT-A altimetry and has made a significant commitment to making it available in near-real time at Monterey. This commitment includes

GUSDRE

Classified by \_\_\_\_\_  
EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATIONS AND POLICY, CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_  
DECLASSIFY ON: 31 Dec 2008

~~SECRET~~

13M-4679

M/S

~~SECRET~~

2

necessary costs to receive data from sites other than Fairbanks. While the expanded coverage is not necessary to demonstrate the capability for real time SEASAT-A data processing, it clearly enhances the value of the demonstration to the worldwide user community as an opportunity to demonstrate the value of an ocean monitoring satellite system. Thus, for not only DoD's own interest, but for the potential benefit to the worldwide user community, I strongly urge the continuation of work to install the worldwide SEASAT-A data links.

SIGNED

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

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: 19 JUN 2014

Capt HL Bixby/jw/23 Feb 78 /B  
OD(SAS)/X56188

~~SECRET~~