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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

20 JUN 1975

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X 111 7000*

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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

~~(S)~~ This is in response to the 30 May 1975 memorandum from the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the above subject recommending that the Department of Defense advise NASA that SEASAT data should be protected from any possible foreign military exploitation.

~~(S)~~ Attached for your information are copies of letters to NASA from the Deputy Director, Strategic and Space Systems, and the Under Secretary of the Air Force advising NASA of your concerns and the DoD position. At NASA's request, DoD has agreed that SEASAT sensor and spacecraft technology is not a matter of concern to DoD, and NASA can proceed with the development of their SEASAT program. However, they have been asked not to prejudice the option in early procurement actions on SEASAT for including some data encryption.

~~(S)~~ While SEASAT technology is not at issue, the problem of data collection and dissemination is. NASA has at least informally proposed certain actions which would help protect some data. Formal negotiations with NASA leading to an acceptable policy on these matters will, I expect, be conducted within the framework of the Space Policy Committee now being set up under the National Security Council. DoD participation on this NSC committee will be shared by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs and the Under Secretary of the Air Force. To assure that JCS interests are fully protected in the Space Policy Committee activity, I would appreciate your establishing a JCS point of contact and advising SAFSS (Attn: LTC Harold Coyle, extension 55433).

*H. P. Clement*

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: APR 02 2014

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Authority: EO 12958  
Date: 3 AUG 1990  
Chief, Declass Br, Dir & Rec WHS

2 Attachments

Office of the Secretary of Defense *5USC552*  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: *02 APR 2014* Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
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