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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

23 APR 1977  
CM-1395-77  
22 April 1977  
SEC DEF HAS SIGNED  
4/23  
ASD(LISA)  
There is nothing  
in this memo  
which I have  
not considered  
therefore does not  
change my view  
HB

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

1. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff wish to restate their position regarding the protection of data collection by the NASA SEASAT program, and believe it is an issue which should be resolved before the response to PRM-23 is completed.

2. (U) On 30 May 1975,\* the Joint Chiefs of Staff established a position on the NASA SEASAT program which closely followed a previous JCS position of 28 January 1975\*\* on the NASA GEOS-C satellite program. Additionally, memorandums to the Secretary of Defense on 1 March 1976\*\*\* and on 26 October 1976\*\*\*\* modified the JCS position as the Joint Staff, DDR&E and NASA worked together to resolve issues which could not be initially agreed upon.

3. (S) There remains only one issue concerning the SEASAT program which has not been resolved between NASA, DDR&E and the Joint Staff and that issue concerns protection of SEASAT altimetry data. These data will provide precise geodetic measurements which have important potential military applications in improving SLBM accuracies. The impact of these geodetic measurements increases as warhead accuracies improve. At the present time there appears to be no other source available to the Soviet Union which can produce such highly accurate geodetic surveys on the same large scale of coverage as the SEASAT program can produce. This information is not time sensitive. Therefore, it could be used at any time in the future by the Soviets to improve warhead accuracy.

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WWS  
Date:

JUN 23 2015

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY (3)~~

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~~DECLASSIFY ON 2007~~

~~DECLASSIFIED BY JOINT STAFF  
MAY 13 2003~~

Downgraded to Secret  
Date: 30 Sep 2013  
Chief, Declassification Division, WWS

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SEC DEF CONTR No. X-120

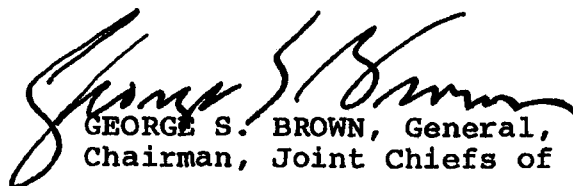


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4. (S) Additionally, SEASAT will be the first civil oceanographic satellite with highly accurate sensors whose complementary nature permits possible synergism resulting from the broad spectrum of data to be collected. The military significance of any synergistic effects cannot be determined until actual data from such sensors is available for evaluation.

5. (S) Accordingly, the Joint Chiefs of Staff reaffirm their position that SEASAT radar altimetry data should be protected from any possible military exploitation by foreign powers.

  
GEORGE S. BROWN, General, USAF  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

References:

- \* JCSM 219-75, 30 May 1975, subject as above
- \*\* JCSM 36-75, 28 January 1975, "Release of Altimetry Data Produced by the Geodynamic Experimental Satellite (U)"
- \*\*\* MJCS 64-76, 1 March 1976, subject as above
- \*\*\*\* JCSM 367-76, 26 October 1976, "Request for Coordination"

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