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78-3819/5

14 NOV 1978

DCI/RM 78-5462

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
FROM:
Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management
SUBJECT: Reactions to the President's Acknowledgment
of the Fact of Satellite Photoreconnaissance
REFERENCE: State Dept Memo to Dr. Brzezinski; same subject,
dtd Oct 14, 1978

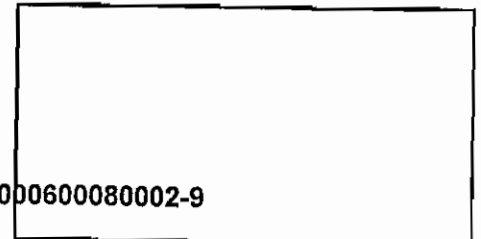
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1. (U) Action Requested: None. For your information only.
2. (C) Background:
 - a. The President directed declassification of the "fact of" satellite photoreconnaissance and publicly acknowledged this fact in a 1 October speech on space policy.
 - b. The Department of State was tasked, by the NSC, to prepare and implement a consultation plan to minimize the risk of adverse foreign reaction. This plan was implemented just prior to the President's announcement, (during the period from 27-29 September).
 - c. Reference (attached) contains the State Department's summary of reactions to the President's announcement.
3. (S) Discussion:
 - a. No adverse reactions have been noted among those of the Congress, the U.S. public, the Soviets, our Allies, the U.N., and foreign media. Soviet Minister Vasev did note, however, that official U.S. acknowledgment could touch on the sensitivities of third countries and that they may have some problems.

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State Dept., NSC reviews completed

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the Fact of Satellite Photoreconnaissance

b. The discussion of the U.S. public reaction is interesting because it points out (as we had predicted at the SPRC meeting) that acknowledgment of the "fact of" has not completely relieved public concern about verification of a SALT TWO agreement and that the public continues to show skepticism and a fascination with "hardware". The State Department memo concludes that "In the end, some discussion of satellite photoreconnaissance beyond "fact of" may be required to overcome public cynicism. An interagency task force chaired by the DCI is examining the specific issue of a selective and phased release of photoreconnaissance imagery. An options paper is due to the PRC (Space) by February 15, 1979." This conclusion underlines my previous comments to you about the importance of the DCI sponsored study on release of photoreconnaissance imagery and my concern about pressures for early release in support of SALT TWO ratification.

c. I have taken steps to circulate this memo within the Intelligence Community.



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Attachment:
State Dept Memo dtd
14 Oct, 78

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Satellite Photoreconnaissance

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