



Office of the Director

~~SECRET//TALENT-KEYHOLE//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR//25X1~~

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

23 May 2007

Dear [REDACTED]

~~(S//TK//REL)~~ Thank you for thoughtful consideration regarding our initiative to declassify the "fact of" [REDACTED] National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) mission ground stations and the "fact of" an NRO presence at the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap, Alice Springs, Australia, and Menwith Hill Station, Harrogate, United Kingdom. I am taking this opportunity to provide an update since my October 2006 letter.

(U) We have completed the first phase of our declassification effort--identifying potential impediments and risks. While a variety of issues were identified, acceptable mitigation plans were available to address each one. Therefore, I plan to proceed to the next phase--mitigation--after which I will be in a position to request concurrence of the Director of National Intelligence concerning declassification. Once this decision is finalized, I have no plans to publicize the issue, nor do I plan to declassify any information that pre-dates this declassification about the "fact of" NRO presence.

(U) Thank you very much for your continued support, and I will keep you informed as this effort progresses.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Kerr

NRO Approved For Release

DECL ON: 25X1, 20311104, RRG dated July 2005
DRV FROM: NRO Classification Guide 6.0, 21 May 2005

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