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DRAFT

July 20, 1961

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(TS) Management of National Reconnaissance Program

This agreement relates to a National Reconnaissance Program and to the establishment of arrangements between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency for its management and operation.

1. The National Reconnaissance Program will consist of all satellite and overflight reconnaissance projects whether overt or covert. It will include all photographic projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping purposes, and electronic signal collection projects for electronic signal intelligence and communications intelligence.

2. There is established a National Reconnaissance Office on a covert basis. The Director of this office will be the Deputy Director of Plans of the Central Intelligence Agency. The Deputy Director will be the Under Secretary of the Air Force who will be delegated full authority by the Secretary of Defense in this area. The office will include a small special staff whose personnel will be drawn from the Department of Defense and from the Central Intelligence Agency. This office will have direct control over all elements of the total program. Implementation of decisions will be exercised in the Agency by the

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Director of the National Reconnaissance Office and in the Department of Defense by the Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office under the special authority delegated to him by the Secretary of Defense. Within the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force will be the operational agency for management and conduct of the National Reconnaissance Program, and will conduct this program through use of streamlined special management procedures involving direct control from the office of the Secretary of the Air Force to Reconnaissance System Project Directors in the field, without intervening reviews or approval actions.

3. A Technical Advisory Group for the National Reconnaissance Office will be established.

4. A uniform security control system will be established for the total program by the National Reconnaissance Office. Products from the various programs will be available to all users as designated by the United States Intelligence Board.

5. The National Reconnaissance Office will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal collection requirements and priorities as established by the United States Intelligence Board.

6. The National Reconnaissance Office will develop suitable cover plans and public information plans, in conjunction with the

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Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, to reduce potential political vulnerability of these programs. In regard to satellite systems, it will be necessary to apply the revised public information policy to other non-sensitive satellite projects in order to insure maximum protection.

7. The Director and Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office will establish detailed working procedures to insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense are fully and most effectively utilized in the management and conduct of this program. Specifically, the Department of Defense would be primarily responsible for technical program management, scheduling, vehicle operations, financial management and overt contract administration. The Central Intelligence Agency would be primarily responsible for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] target programming of each vehicle [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

8. Management control of the field operations of various elements of the program will be exercised directly, in the case of the Central Intelligence Agency, from the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office to the appropriate field representatives and, in the case of the Department of Defense, from the Deputy Director of the National

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Reconnaissance Office to the designated project officers for each program. All program elements and the operations of the National Reconnaissance Office will be reviewed on a regular basis, and as special circumstances require, by the 5412 Policy Control Board.

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Chart: Single mgmt for
National Recon Prog. (77)

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SINGLE MANAGEMENT FOR
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM (NR)

NOTE: The National Reconnaissance Program responds only to photographic and signal collection requirements of the USIB (COMAR)

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