

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JUL 21 2010

15 DEC 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: SEASAT-A Synthetic Aperture Radar (U)

~~(S/REF)~~ On 1 March 1976, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in MJCS 64-76 refined an earlier (JCSM-219-75, 30 May 1975) position regarding the military utility of data from the synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to be flown aboard the NASA Ocean Dynamics Satellite, SEASAT-A. As a result of this position, NASA has indicated the following intentions with respect to management of the SAR:

a. A device will be installed on the SAR command uplink which when activated will prevent unauthorized control of the SAR.

b. Routine 24-hour-in-advance notification of the intended data acquisition program will be provided to DoD.

c. Radar imagery will not be acquired routinely and repetitively over the entire United States land mass; some repetitive coverage over cropland, however, will be acquired for agricultural research.

d. The SAR data acquisition network will include three United States ground stations (Alaska, California and Florida) and one Canadian station near St. Johns, Newfoundland. In addition, NASA has entered discussions with the European Space Agency for establishment of a station in England. Other future possible sites include Norway, Belgium, Australia and Japan although there are no specific programs for their establishment at this time. In all cases, NASA will retain control of the SAR programming and there would be no command control from any of the foreign stations.

Additionally, NASA would be provided copies of all SAR data upon request and SAR coverage would be limited in extent and for R&D, not routine operational coverage.

(U) With respect to item b above, NASA is now ready to proceed with planning for DoD notification and requests the name of a DoD contact with whom they can work to establish a mutually acceptable procedure. I believe Major R. J. Salewski, USAF, in the J-3 Directorate is familiar with this issue and with

HL Bixby/jw/14 Dec 77
CJESCG, OD(SAS)/X56188

~~SECRET~~

Classified by US DRE
EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION OF
EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION
DATE 31 Dec 2007

Doc 2

10-M-0655 R-1

~~SECRET~~

your concurrence I will provide his name to NASA and authorize him to work directly with the cognizant NASA personnel. I would like to be kept informed of all agreements made with NASA in this matter, both formal and informal. For this purpose I am designating Captain Harry L. Sixby, USN, Chairman, Joint Environmental Satellite Coordinating Group, as my representative.

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JUL 21 2010

(SIGNED)
Ross N. Williams
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems

~~SECRET~~