

Office of the Secretary of Defense ^{5 USC 552} ~~SECRET~~
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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#602

COVERING BRIEF

25 JUN 1976

TO: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING SIGNED
FROM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC AND SPACE SYSTEMS ROSS N. WILLIAMS
REAR ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY

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PROBLEM: It has now been almost six years since the publication of JCSM-370-70, 31 July 1970, subject, "Operational Requirements for Satellite Monitoring of the Earth's Space Environment," with the Annex which lists and discusses each requirement (Tab B). According to the memorandum, these requirements were to be reviewed periodically and updated as required. If any such review has taken place, it has not been documented.

DISCUSSION: Attached is a proposed Memorandum to the Director of Operations, Joint Chiefs of Staff, requesting that the JCS review and update these requirements (Tab A).

During the last six years, several space environmental satellites of the SOLRAD series have been launched, including SOLRAD-BI (SOLRAD-11) earlier this year. The Navy will soon begin an operational evaluation of the space environmental data provided by SOLRAD-11. At some point thereafter--probably the sooner the better, considering the program's cost--DDR&E must make some decisions on the future of the program: Should it be cancelled, continued as an ongoing R&D program, or approved as an operational space system? And if the program is continued, is the Navy really the best Service to manage it, or should it perhaps be assigned to the Air Force, which already has a Space Environmental Support System in operation at AF Global Weather Central?

Also during the past six years, there have been significant changes in many of the communications, early warning, and other types of systems requiring space environmental support. Collection of space environmental data by ground sensors has improved. SAFE-GUARD, a potentially important user of such data, has been cancelled. For these reasons, an updated list of the above mentioned requirements is urgently needed. This new list, together with the results of the Navy evaluation of SOLRAD-11, will provide a solid basis for DDR&E's decisions.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached Memorandum be signed.

CONCURRENCE: R&AT J.S. Allen, 21 Jun 76 (on orig)

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