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~~TOP SECRET - XGDS (2)~~

May 11, 1978

*Reliance  
in Part  
1.3(e)(1), (2)  
DOD  
CIA  
NASA*

Presidential Directive/NSC-37

TO: The Vice President  
The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Secretary of Interior  
The Secretary of Agriculture  
The Secretary of Commerce  
The Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs  
Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBJECT: National Space Policy (U)

This directive establishes national policies which shall guide the conduct of United States activities in and related to the space programs and activities discussed below. The objectives of these policies are (1) to advance the interests of the United States through the exploration and use of space and (2) to cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space for all activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind. (U)

1. The United States space program shall be conducted in accordance with the following basic principles:

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DOWNGRAD  
Per E.O. 12958  
by National Security Council

Partially Declassified/Released on 2/13/98  
under provisions of E.O. 12958  
by A. Soubers, National Security Council  
P 95-446

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✓ a. Commitment to the principles of the exploration and use of outer space by all nations for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind. *release*  
"Peaceful purposes" allow for military and intelligence-related activities in pursuit of national security and other goals. ~~(S)~~

b. The exploration and use of outer space in support of the national well-being and policies of the United States. (U)

c. Rejection of any claims to sovereignty over outer space or over celestial bodies, or any portion thereof, and rejection of any limitations on the fundamental right to acquire data from space. (U)

d. The space systems of any nation are national property and have the right of passage through and operations in space without interference. Purposeful interference with operational space systems shall be viewed as an infringement upon sovereign rights. (U)

e. The United States will pursue activities in space in support of its right of self-defense. (U)

f. The United States will maintain a national intelligence space program. *release* ~~(S)~~

g. The United States will pursue space activities to increase scientific knowledge, develop useful civil applications of space technology, and maintain United States leadership in space. (U)

h. The United States will conduct international cooperative space-related activities that are beneficial to the United States scientifically, politically, economically, and/or militarily. (U)

i.  *1.5*  
*a, 9*

j. The United States will maintain current responsibility and management relationships among the *release*

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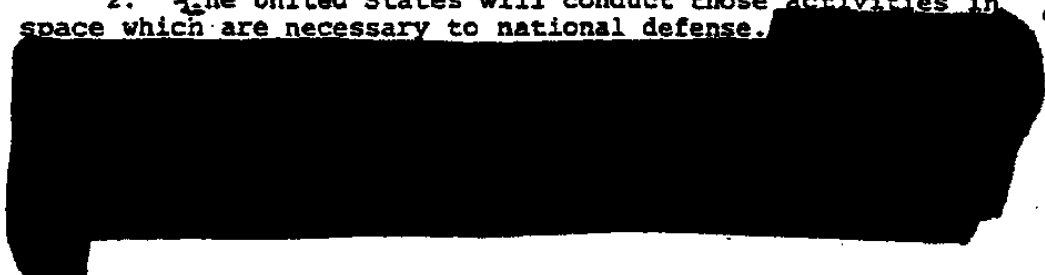
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Factors focused on civil, defense, and national intelligence objectives. (C) *release*

k. Close coordination, cooperation, and information exchange will be maintained among the space sectors to avoid unnecessary duplication and to allow maximum cross-utilization, in compliance with security and policy guidance, of all capabilities. (U)

*release  
1st sentence*

2. <sup>sent.</sup> The United States will conduct those activities in space which are necessary to national defense. *1.5*



a. Security. The military space program, including dissemination of data, shall be conducted in accordance with Executive Orders and applicable directives for protection of national security information, and commensurate with both the missions performed and the security measures necessary to protect related (national intelligence) space activities. (U) *release*



*1.5a*



*1.5  
a,*

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[REDACTED]

1.5a,9

[REDACTED]

1.5a,9

[REDACTED]

1.5a,9

[REDACTED]

1.5c

*release sentence*

Collected information that cannot be attributed to space systems will be classified according to its content.

[REDACTED]

-- The fact that the United States conducts satellite reconnaissance for intelligence purposes, without disclosing the generic type of activity, will be classified

*release*

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Exempt from the General Declassification Schedule) and handled outside the special security control system. (S) *release*

-- [REDACTED] *1.5 a, g*

-- [REDACTED] *1.5C*

-- [REDACTED] *1.5C*

-- Strict control over public statements and background concerning space reconnaissance will be maintained. (S) *release*

-- Further changes to the space intelligence security policy can be authorized only by the President. (S) *release*

b. [REDACTED] *1.5a, i*

c. Interactions with Civil Community. Selected space-related products and technology shall be made available to civil agencies within appropriate security. *release*

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constraints.

[REDACTED]

1.5 a, 19  
H

d.

[REDACTED]

1.5 a, 19

4. The United States shall conduct civil space programs to increase the body of scientific knowledge about the earth and the universe; to develop and operate civil applications of space technology; to maintain United States leadership in space science, applications, and technology; and to further United States domestic and foreign policy objectives. The following policies shall govern the conduct of the civil space program. (U)

a. The United States shall encourage domestic commercial exploitation of space capabilities and systems for economic benefit and to promote the technological position of the United States, except that all United States earth-oriented remote sensing satellites will require United States Government authorization and supervision or regulation. (U)

b.

[REDACTED]

1.5 a, 19  
H  
f

c. Data and results from the civil space programs will be provided the widest practical dissemination, except where specific exceptions defined by legislation, Executive Order, or directive apply. (U)

d.

[REDACTED]

1.5 a, 19  
H  
f

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e. [REDACTED]

1.5  
a, 9

f. ~~The~~ The United States will develop, manage, and operate the Shuttle-based Space Transportation System through NASA in cooperation with the DoD to service all authorized space users--domestic and foreign, commercial and governmental-- and will provide launch priority and necessary security to military and intelligence missions while recognizing the essentially open character of the civil space program. Mission control is the responsibility of the mission agency. Military and intelligence programs may use the Shuttle Orbiters as dedicated mission vehicles. ] ~~(S)~~ *release*

5. The NSC Policy Review Committee shall meet when appropriate to provide a forum to all federal agencies for their policy views; to review and advise on proposed changes to national space policy; to resolve issues referred to the Committee; and to provide for orderly and rapid referral of open issues to the President for decision as necessary. The PRC will meet at the call of the Chairman for these purposes, and when so convened, will be chaired by the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy. (U)

~~Interagency~~ Interagency coordinating mechanisms will be employed to review and coordinate pertinent issues and projects, make evaluations, and implement policy decisions where appropriate. Special areas of interest include security and political risks involved with technology transfer and federal and private space operations involving remote sensing and communication. Unresolved policy issues will be forwarded to the PRC for review and resolution. (C) *release*

*Jimmy Carter*

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~~RESTRICTED (S) (2)~~

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