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(Basic Ltr: ACS/Intelligence, U. S. Air Force, file AFCIN-1C3, Subject:  
(U) Data Collection Facilities, Technical Intelligence, dtd 14 Nov 60)

1st Ind

Serial: N 4798

7 DEC 1960

National Security Agency, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, United States Air Force,  
The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C.

1. Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) efforts to assist the National Security Agency (NSA) in acquiring a capability for reception and recording of signals emanating from satellites and space vehicles are appreciated. It is recognized at this time that the United States has only a marginal collection capability against Soviet earth satellites and space probes. Accordingly, NSA has pursued with urgency the development of a minimum capability to collect foreign earth satellite and space vehicle transmissions. In this regard, the Department of Defense recently charged the National Security Agency with the task of preparing a SIGINT collection plan.

2. In the course of its studies, NSA has investigated the possibility of using space tracking and data acquisition facilities possessed by the Military Departments and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Generally, these facilities are employed in research and development tasks or space tracking. NSA use of these facilities would most probably result in a second priority being accorded to data collection from foreign earth satellites and space vehicles. There are security problems inherent in using these facilities. Generally, contractor personnel are used extensively in the R/D environment and there will be requirements to use codeword information in proper technical direction of the collection facilities. Most important, however, facilities possessed by the Military Departments and NASA generally require extensive and expensive modification before they can effectively collect data for intelligence purposes.

3. The National Security Agency conceptual plan for SIGINT collection of foreign earth satellite and space vehicle transmissions is scheduled for coordination with the Department of Defense within a

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few weeks. When the plan is approved the National Security Agency will explore and attempt to exploit any advantages to be derived in use of United States research and development facilities. It is recommended, therefore, that provision of additional equipment for Air Force Missile Test Center facilities for SIGINT collection be held in abeyance pending outcome of Department of Defense and National Security Agency deliberations.

W. H. FROST  
L. H. FROST  
Vice Admiral, USN  
Director

Inci:  
w/d

cc: DIR ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
AG  
Reading File  
OPS  
GENS-651  
PROD-001  
PROD-04  
COSA-2  
COSA-04  
GENS-02

M/R: ACS Intelligence, AF requested comments on correspondence it forwarded. Correspondence included letters from ATIC and Atlantic Missile Range contractor in which it was proposed to augment equipment at two AMR facilities and bring them into a collection net to intercept and record satellite and space vehicle signals. Reply has been coordinated with Mr. Guy Stevens (GENS-02) Mr. O. R. Kirby (PROD-04) and Col. Burn (OPS).

Mr. W. Deeley, GENS-651, 4195-S, 2 Dec 60, mb

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