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WE UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN OVER THE FREQUENCY AND DETAILS WITH WHICH LAUNCHES OF RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES ARE REPORTED IN THE PRESS. WHEN THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THESE ARTICLES REFLECTS AN ACTUAL LEAK OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, OUR CONCERN IS COMPOUNDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MERE RECORDING OF THE LAUNCHES OF SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES DOES NOT GIVE US ANY GREAT PROBLEM WHEN NOT OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. YOU MAY RECALL THAT THE NATIONAL POLICY ON CONDUCTING RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS FROM SPACE RECOMMENDED THAT WE WORK TOWARD

DISTRIBUTION	
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Dr McLucas	
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PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF SPACE RECONNAISSANCE. WE THINK THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO A GREAT EXTENT BECAUSE WE DO NOT SEE THAT THE PRESS IS OPPOSING OUR OPERATIONS; JUST THE OPPOSITE SEEMS TO BE THE CASE. WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE WIDER ACCEPTANCE THAN EVER BEFORE AND POINT TO ARTICLES RELATING SATELLITES TO POLICING THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY AS AN EXAMPLE. TO TRY TO RETRENCH AND HOLD BACK THE INFORMATION WHICH IS NOW LEGITIMATELY MADE PUBLIC TO THE NEWS MEDIA WOULD, WE BELIEVE, CAUSE UNNECESSARY CRITICISM AND CLAIMS OF OVER-CLASSIFICATION. WE SUGGEST THAT WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD MAINTAINING THE TIGHTEST SECURITY ON THAT WHICH IS TRULY CLASSIFIED.

*WP-197/721*

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