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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

To ACS  
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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

31 AUG 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, USAF

SUBJECT: Declassification of DSAP Data

As you are aware, I have been appointed by Secretary Rush to work out methods of improved cooperation with NOAA in using data generated by weather satellites. At present NOAA receives little benefit from our own classified meteorological satellite system (DSAP). Before we can provide NOAA routine support from the DSAP we must declassify the data and alter our security policy.

The following course of action is offered to declassify DSAP data:

"Upon launch of DSAP vehicle 6530 in November 1972, all DSAP data would be unclassified except for sensitive specialized tasking that would reveal military operations.

The primary global information is two nautical mile resolution visual and infrared data which will be available to NOAA, unclassified, through the Air Force Global Weather Central. The primary tactical information is high resolution (one-third nautical mile) visual and infrared data. Mainly intended for direct readout, a limited amount of high resolution data are stored on tape recorders for subsequent transmission to the Air Force Global Weather Central. High resolution data over the continental US and adjacent waters would be routinely available to NOAA, unclassified, as well as other regions on an as-requested, as-available basis (e. g., tracking of tropical storms which are a potential hazard to the US). In addition, automated analyses using all available weather data are available to NOAA. Technical details of the DMS spacecraft would remain SECRET."

Classified by *Under Secretary Au.*  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL  
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE  
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 2

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I would appreciate your comments on this proposed action by 15 September. This will permit required declassification actions and public releases to be accomplished by 25 October in support of the November launch date.

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John L. McLucas

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