UNCLASSIFIED
~~TOP SECRET~~

SYSTEM II
90617

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET/NOFORN~~
~~HANDLE VIA TALENT-KEYHOLE~~
CONTROL CHANNELS

August 15, 1984

National Security Decision
Directive Number 144

NATIONAL SPACE STRATEGY (U)

INTRODUCTION

This directive provides a strategy to implement National Security Decision Directive 42, the National Space Policy, as supplemented by the President's 1984 State of the Union Address. The strategy identifies selected, high priority efforts and responsibilities, and provides implementation plans for major space policy objectives. This strategy is consistent with other space-related National Security Decision Directives and other Administration policies. (U)

THE SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (~~STS~~)

- Insure routine, cost-effective access to space with the STS. The STS is a critical factor in maintaining U.S. space leadership, in accomplishing the basic goals of the National Space Policy, and in achieving a permanent manned presence in space. It is the primary space launch system for both national security and civil government missions. As such, NASA's first priority is to make the STS fully operational and cost-effective in providing routine access to space. (U)

Implementation: The STS program will receive sustained commitments by all affected departments and agencies. Enhancements of STS operational capability, upper stages, and efficient methods of deploying and retrieving payloads will be pursued as national requirements are defined. (U)

NASA and Department of Defense will jointly prepare a report that defines a fully operational and cost-effective STS and specifies the steps leading to that status. This will be prepared and submitted for SIG(Space) review no later than November 30, 1984. (U)

PARTIALLY DECLASSIFIED ON 5/18/04
by NARA on the recommendation of the
NSC under provisions of E.O. 12958
RS

~~TOP SECRET/NOFORN~~
~~HANDLE VIA TALENT-KEYHOLE~~
CONTROL CHANNELS
Declassify on: OADR

~~TOP SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

COPY 1 OF 12 COPIES

UNCLASSIFIED

The STS will be fully operational by 1988. On October 1, 1988, prices for STS services and capabilities provided to commercial and foreign users will reflect the full cost of such services and capabilities. NASA will develop a time-phased plan for implementing full cost recovery for commercial and foreign STS flight operations. At a minimum, this plan will include an option for full cost recovery for commercial and foreign flights which occur after October 1, 1988. OMB, in consultation with DOC, DOT, DOD, NASA and other agencies will prepare a joint assessment of the ability of the U.S. private sector and the STS to maintain international competitiveness in the provision of launch services. This analysis should include an assessment of all factors relevant to foreign ELVs, U.S. ELVs and the STS. NASA will keep OMB fully apprised of the elements of its time-phased plan as it is being developed. Both the time-phased plan and the OMB analysis will be submitted for review and comment by the SIG(Space) and the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade no later than September 15, 1984, and subsequently submitted for the President's approval in order to permit their consideration in the development of the FY 1986 budget. (U)

The Department of Defense and NASA will jointly conduct a study to identify launch vehicle technology that could be made available for use in the post-1995 period. The study should be completed by December 31, 1984. (U)

THE CIVIL SPACE PROGRAM

- Establish a permanently manned presence in space. NASA will develop a permanently manned Space Station within a decade. The development of a civil Space Station will further the goals of space leadership and the peaceful exploration and use of space for the benefit of all mankind. The Space Station will enhance the development of the commercial potential of space. It will facilitate scientific research in space. It will also, in the longer term, serve as a basis for future major civil and commercial activities to explore and exploit space. (U)

Implementation: As a civil program, the Space Station will be funded and executed by NASA beginning in FY 1985 with the goal of the establishment of a permanently manned presence in space within a decade. (U)

- Foster increased international cooperation in civil space activities. The U.S. will seek mutually beneficial international participation in its civil and commercial space and space-related programs. As a centerpiece of this priority, the U.S. will seek agreements with friends and allies to participate in the development and utilization of the Space Station. (U)

Implementation: NASA and the Department of State will make every effort to obtain maximum mutually beneficial foreign participation in the Space Station program, consistent with the Presidential commitment for international participation and NSDD 50. The broad objectives of the United States in

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

international cooperation in space activities are to protect national security; promote foreign policy considerations, advance national science and technology; and maximize national economic benefits, including domestic considerations. The suitability of each cooperative space activity must be judged within the framework of all these objectives. Consistent with these objectives, the SIG(Space) will review all major policy issues raised by proposed agreements for international participation on the Space Station program prior to commitments by the U.S. Government. (U)

- Identify major long-range national goals for the civil space program. Major long-range goals for the civil space program are essential to meeting the national commitment to maintain United States leadership in space and to exploit space for economic and scientific benefit. (U)

Implementation: In accordance with the FY 1985 NASA Authorization Act, the President will appoint a National Commission on Space to formulate an agenda for the United States space program. The Commission shall identify goals, opportunities, and policy options for United States civilian space activity for the next twenty years. Upon submission of the Commission report to the President, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in cooperation with NASA and other appropriate agencies, will review the report and will provide their comments and recommendations to the President through the SIG(Space) within 60 days of the submission of the Commission report. (U)

- Insure a vigorous and balanced program of civil scientific research and exploration in space. The U.S. civil space science program is an essential element of U.S. leadership in space, a vehicle for scientific advancement and long-term economic benefits, and a valuable opportunity for international cooperation. (U)

Implementation: NASA and other appropriate agencies will conduct their activities in a manner that will maintain a vigorous and balanced program of civil space research and exploration. NASA will explicitly factor the broad spectrum of capabilities necessary for space science into the planning and development of the manned Space Station and will implement those plans in a manner that will lend stability and continuity to research in the space sciences. Furthermore, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in conjunction with NASA and other appropriate agencies, will review and define the goals and missions of the various civil agencies in the area of earth sciences research and will provide their recommendations in a report to the SIG(Space) by April 1, 1985. (U)

COMMERCIAL SPACE PROGRAM

- Encourage commercial Expendable Launch Vehicle activities. The U.S. will encourage and facilitate commercial expendable launch vehicle operations. U.S. Government policies will promote competitive opportunities for commercial expendable launch vehicle operations and minimize government regulation of these activities. (U)

Implementation: The Department of Transportation will carry out the responsibilities assigned by Executive Order 12465 on Commercial Expendable Launch Vehicle Activities. Appropriate agencies will work with Department of Transportation to encourage the U.S. private sector development of commercial launch operations in accordance with NSDD-94. (U)

The U.S. Government will not subsidize the commercialization of ELVs but will price the use of its facilities, equipment, and services by commercial ELV operators consistent with the goal of encouraging viable commercial ELV launch activities in accordance with NSDD-94. (U)

- Stimulate private sector commercial space activities. To stimulate private sector investment, ownership, and operation of civil space assets, the U.S. Government will facilitate private sector access to civil space systems, and encourage the private sector to undertake commercial space ventures without direct Federal subsidies. (U)

Implementation: The U.S. Government will take the following initiatives:

- Economic Initiatives. Tax laws and regulations which discriminate against commercial space ventures need to be changed or eliminated.

- Legal and Regulatory Initiatives. Laws and regulations predating space operations need to be updated to accommodate space commercialization.

- Research and Development Initiatives. In partnership with industry and academia, government should expand basic research and development which may have implications for investors aiming to develop commercial space products and services.

- Initiatives to Establish and Implement a Commercial Space Policy. Since commercial developments in space often require many years to reach the production phase, entrepreneurs need assurances of consistent government actions and policies over long periods. (U)

NASA, Department of Commerce, and Department of Transportation all have roles and will work cooperatively to develop and implement specific measures to foster the growth of private

UNCLASSIFIED

sector commercialization in space. A high level national focus for commercial space issues will be created through establishment of a Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade (CCCT) Working Group on the Commercial Use of Space. The SIG(Space) will continue its role of coordinating the implementation of policy for the overall U.S. Space Program. (U)

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAMS 25x(1) 25x(5)

- Maintain assured access to space for national security payloads. The national security sector must pursue an improved assured launch capability under peace, crisis, and conflict conditions. [redacted] (S)

25x(1) 25x(5)

Implementation: [redacted] (S)

- Pursue an aggressive long-term survivability enhancement program. The national security sector must provide for the survivability of selected, critical national security space assets [redacted] continuity of government. This strategy will contribute to deterrence by helping to ensure that potential adversaries cannot eliminate vital U.S. space capabilities without considerable expenditure of their own resources. [redacted] (U)

25x(1) 25x(5)

25x(1) 25x(5)

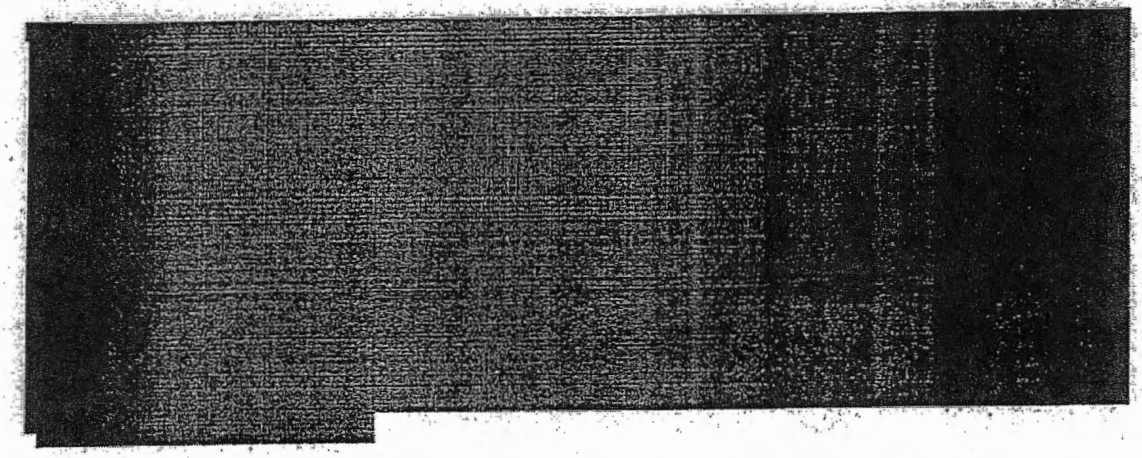
Implementation: The high priority and emphasis on survivability reflected within the Department of Defense and national foreign intelligence space programs will continue. Presidential guidance and direction in NSDD-13, 55, 42, and 127; the Defense Guidance; and the DCI Guidance will be used in the formulation of future plans and programs. (S)

- Stem the flow of advanced western space technology to the Soviet Union. Technological limitations -- more than any other factor -- constrain Soviet space-related options. While the

UNCLASSIFIED

U.S. currently enjoys a lead over the Soviet Union in space-related technology, it cannot be complacent about the increasing Soviet efforts to erase the U.S. advantage through vigorous Soviet research and development efforts and through technology transfer or theft. The U.S. must stem the adverse flow of space technology to the Soviet Union and its allies. (S)

Implementation: All agencies of the Government will cooperate in order to prevent the transfer of space technology to the Soviet Union and to its allies, either directly or through third countries, if such transfer is potentially detrimental to the national security interests of the United States. Agencies will be fully responsible for protecting against adverse technology transfer in the conduct of their programs. (S) 25X(1) 25X(5)



The SIG(Technology Transfer) will develop a long term plan to protect against the adverse impact of technology transfer through U.S. Government space programs. This plan will be completed by March 1, 1985. (S)

- Continue to study space arms control options. The United States will continue to study space arms control options in accordance with the guidance in NSDD-42. (U)

Implementation: The Senior Arms Control Policy Group will continue to study a broad range of possible options for space arms control. The studies will be undertaken with a view toward negotiations with the Soviet Union and other nations, if compatible with national security interests. All actions will be conducted within the constraints of existing treaty commitments, and options for demonstrations of capabilities will be reviewed by the SIG-DP for policy and treaty implications. (U)

- Continue to integrate the use of appropriate space systems with operational forces. The integration of the use of appropriate space systems with operational forces for use during peace, crisis, and all levels of conflict is a fundamental

element of defense strategy. Space systems make extensive contributions to our security, and dependence on them continues to increase. The use of space systems will be consistent with treaties, international agreements, and other international obligations and remain focused on insuring the most effective use of evolving space technologies and systems in strengthening our defense posture. ~~(S)~~

Implementation: DOD space activities will be structured to provide effective support to operational forces in peace, crisis, and war. The DOD, in conjunction with the DCI, will develop space systems plans and architectures to meet the needs of operational forces that capitalize on the national investments in all appropriate U.S. space programs. [redacted] These activities will be pursued in coordination with the respective system owners and operators as prescribed in the Planning, Programming and Budgeting System and approved through the Defense Resources Board. ~~(TS)~~ 25x(1) 25x(5)

- Develop space systems to assure access to and use of space in a potentially more hostile environment. Space-based systems would play a key role in conflict situations and perhaps a dominant role should the decision be made to proceed with deployment of a multi-tiered ballistic missile defense systems. The right of passage through, and operations in, space without interference are critical objectives identified in our national space policy. Satisfaction of these objectives may require the development of both active and passive defense measures to insure continued availability of critical assets. ~~(S)~~

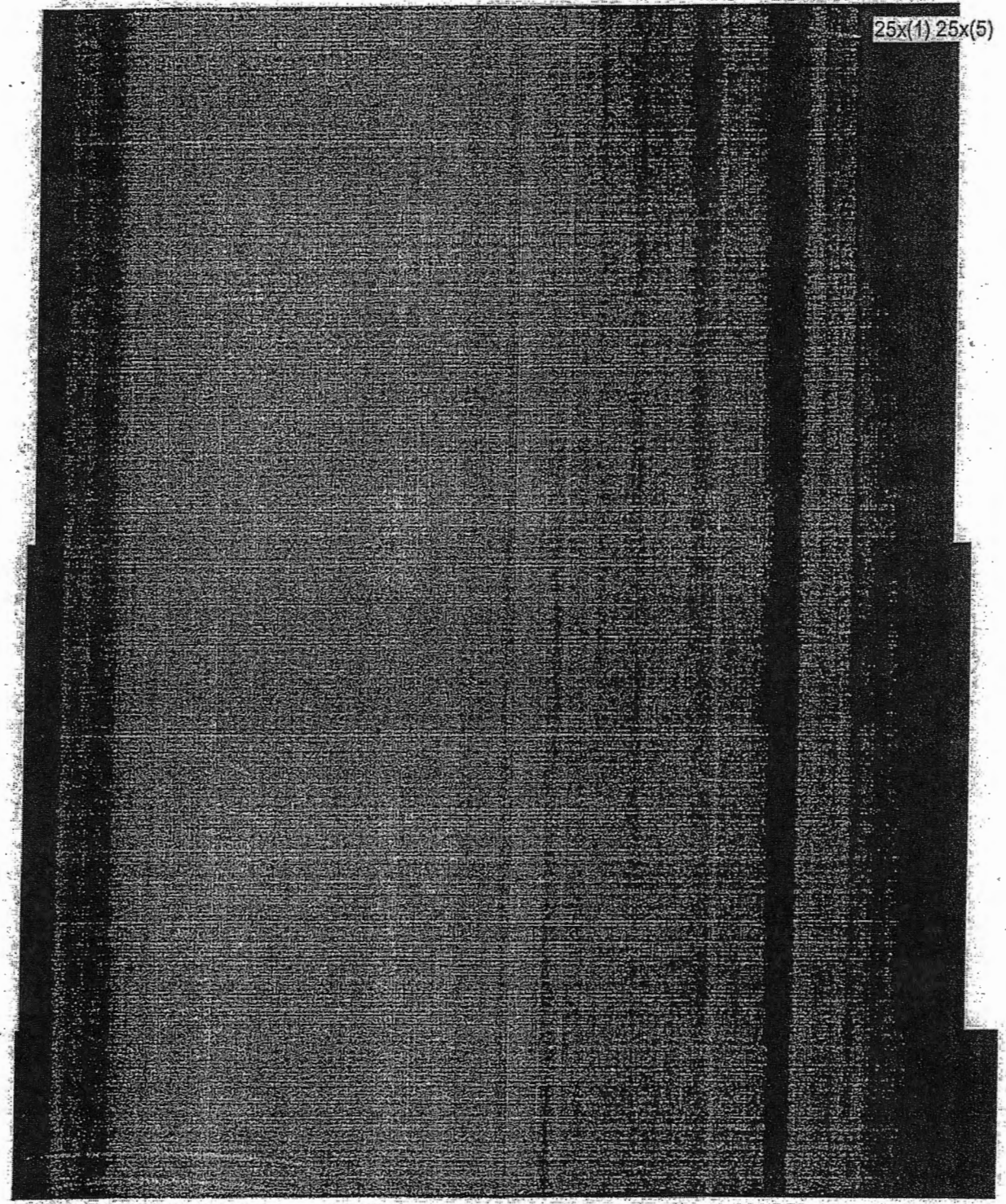
Implementation: In the selection and design of national security space systems, the Secretary of Defense and Director of Central Intelligence will ensure that technologies are pursued for the development of both active and passive defense measures. ~~(S)~~

- Insure that DOD space and space-related programs will support the Strategic Defense Initiative. In light of the uncertain long-term stability of offensive deterrence, an effort will be made to identify defensive means of deterring nuclear war. The U.S. has been investigating the feasibility of eventually shifting toward reliance upon a defensive concept. A program has been initiated to demonstrate the technical feasibility of enhancing deterrence through greater reliance on defensive strategic capabilities. There is broad agreement that space systems, including heavy lift launch vehicles, would play a critical role in the Strategic Defense Initiative. The Department of Defense will posture its space activities so as to preserve options to support the demonstration

of capabilities as they are defined and become available, and as justified by the state-of-the-art technology. (S)

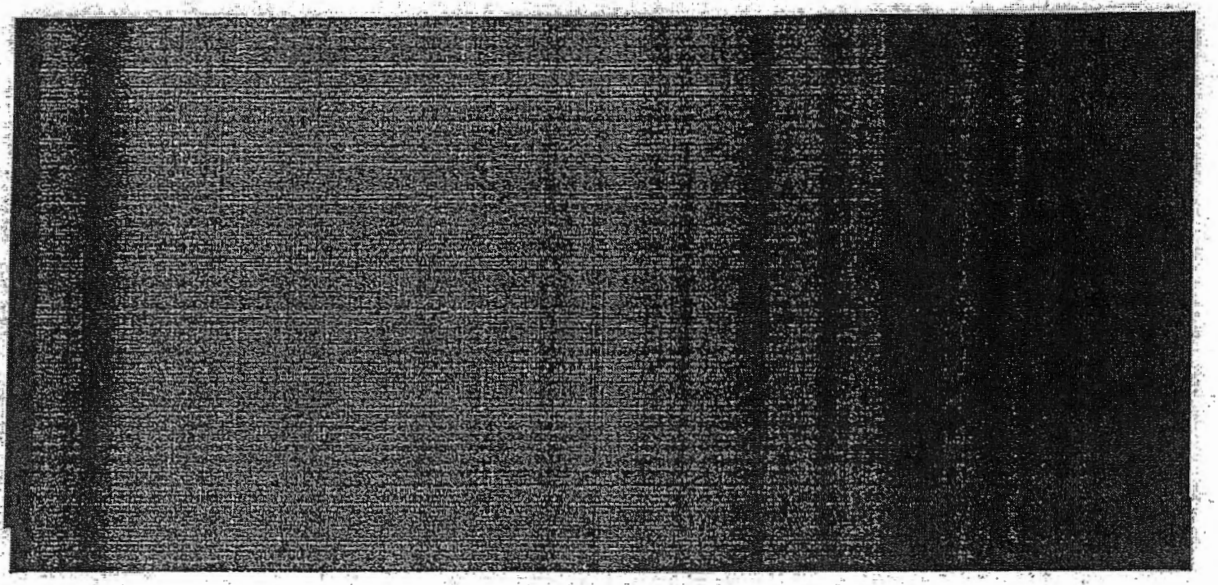
Implementation: Those actions necessary to implement this priority are outlined in NSDD-119, dated January 6, 1984. (U)

25x(1) 25x(5)



UNCLASSIFIED

25x(1) 25x(5)



Ronald Reagan

UNCLASSIFIED