



DEEP SPACE SURVEILLANCE

(U) In July 1963, NORAD was surprised to learn from the JCS that it did not have either the requirement or the responsibility for obtaining data on deep space probes and deep space vehicles. Then, in October 1963, NORAD learned through a staff visit to the Pentagon that a 20,000-mile "ceiling" had been set as NORAD's limit. This "ceiling" resulted from a requirements letter of April 1961 to the JCS on the basic SPADATS sensor coverage, but the letter was not intended to indicate the limit of NORAD's interest. However, NORAD did not send a reclama. It was felt that such action might cause more positive restraints and also adversely affect other pending JCS actions that were then favorable to NORAD.

(U) NORAD also learned that the JCS did not intend to limit NORAD's activities in deep space. They did intend, however, to prevent requests for procurement or funding of a system of deep space sensors. Thus, the main constraint on NORAD was financial. NORAD's intention was not to ask for a special sensor network, but to get data from agencies with deep space surveillance facilities and to modify some large radar-tracking antennas. The staff visit showed that such modifications might be accomplished by projects not requiring JCS funding approval.

(U) NORAD was informally told that it should continue to observe deep space objects through its SPADATS sensors and by arrangements with agencies having deep space facilities. NORAD had previously made an operational agreement with the National Security Agency (NSA). Under this agreement, NORAD planned to make formal arrangements for data collection with the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL).

(U) In November, NORAD asked the NRL to use its Chesapeake Bay tracking radar in SPADATS. NORAD felt that this 150-foot tracking antenna would make a valuable contribution in lunar and interplanetary surveillance. NRL said it would



DECLASSIFIED

provide data but arrangements would have to be made through NSA under the existing NORAD/NSA agreement. Also, NORAD was planning to make a formal working agreement with NASA, whereby the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, already cooperating on an informal basis, would provide data to SPADATS.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN TERMS OF REFERENCE

(U) In July 1963, NORAD asked the JCS and COSC to amend the NORAD Terms of Reference to add in specific terms the responsibility for space defense.* NORAD believed that this change was necessary to insure development of appropriate plans for aerospace defense of the North American continent.

(U) Canada's Air Chief Marshal told the Chairman, JCS, that the COSC agreed that NORAD's request was appropriate from their point of view, but felt that such an amendment might exceed the scope of the NORAD agreement. To amend the Terms of Reference, the COSC believed that the subject would have to enter diplomatic channels.

(U) The JCS replied to the COSC in December that the basic NORAD agreement might need amending to change the Terms. The JCS felt, however, that it would be premature for either government to introduce the matter into diplomatic channels.

* (U) NORAD had once before, in May 1961, asked for a change in its Terms of Reference. At that time, the JCS had replied that they believed the existing Terms were broad enough.

DECLASSIFIED