

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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March 4, 1966

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 342

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
The Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
The Administrator, Agency for International Development
The Director, United States Information Agency
The Special Assistant to the President for Telecommunications and Director of Telecommunications Management

SUBJECT: U. S. Assistance in the Early Establishment of Communications Satellite Service for Less-Developed Nations

In carrying out his responsibilities under the Communications Satellite Act of 1962, the President has directed that the United States Government take active steps to encourage the construction of earth-station links to the worldwide communications satellite system in selected less-developed countries. Emphasis in this effort is to be on encouraging the selected countries to construct these stations out of their own resources, stressing the many benefits of direct access to the global communications satellites.

The Special Assistant to the President for Telecommunications/Director of Telecommunications Management has been designated by the President as the agent for coordinating this project.

The State Department and AID are to determine (a) the countries to be included in this program and (b) U. S. Government actions, if any, for encouraging the accelerated construction of earth stations and related facilities in these countries. In cases involving possible U. S. technical or financial assistance, the President has directed that no special funds should be requested. All funding of such projects is to be handled out of current AID FY 1966 appropriations or out of regular FY 1967 funds.

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- 2 -

The Department of State is to report its findings to the President, through the Special Assistant for Telecommunications/Director of Telecommunications Management, by July 1, 1966.

The President has directed that the Executive Agent and Manager of the National Communications System and U.S. Government agencies operating facilities outside the NCS utilize the global communications satellite system in handling traffic whenever possible and where national security requirements will not be compromised, consistent with sound cost-efficiency and other management considerations.

A Working Group is to be established, in accordance with the President's instruction, to study the possibilities of using the communications satellite system to advance information exchange and educational purposes, in line with his desire that the United States play a greater role in international educational efforts, particularly in less-developed countries.

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