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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

26 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HANSEN, SAFRD

SUBJECT: Titan IIIC - Titan IIID/AGENA

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with a parochial view on the Titan IIIC - Titan IIID/AGENA question which I understand is to be decided this week. As you know, NRO programs depend heavily on the AGENA. It is used both for boost and for on-orbit control on the CORONA, GAMBIT and STRAWMAN programs. It is used as an ascent stage on the [redacted] programs. While there are no NRO programs currently on the Titan IIIC, a booster of this general class may be required for a potential [redacted] and for the proposed Readout Data Relay Satellite.

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The [redacted] Program Office has been working on an [redacted] spacecraft and has been somewhat constrained by the Titan IIIC [redacted] capability. It appears that the Titan IIID/AGENA would provide a more comfortable design margin.

Another factor of interest is usage rates for the transtage and the AGENA. Phase-out of CORONA, the reduced frequency of GAMBIT operations (both due to the introduction of HEXAGON), and the phase-out of low altitude SIGINT programs will reduce the number of AGENA's launched from sixteen in FY-70 to five or six in FY-1975. I have no first-hand knowledge of the projected T IIIC launch rate in FY-1975 but would assume that there are significant benefits to be had by consolidating upper stage procurement to one vehicle.

I am also concerned with the possibility that the [redacted] program, scheduled for launch on [redacted] centers, may become the only user of Launch Complex 13, the Atlas/AGENA and the associated ground guidance station. A fall-out of a Titan IIID/AGENA capability at the ITL would be a Titan IIIB/AGENA capability and this could provide a more cost effective launch environment for [redacted]

CORONA GAMBIT HEXAGON [redacted] EARPOP

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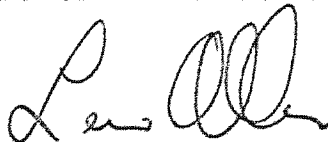
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As you may know, [redacted] is developing a [redacted] [redacted] as a part of the Ascent AGENA. This development is proceeding satisfactorily and a preliminary analysis shows that this [redacted] system can handle the Titan IIIC missions. In view of the recent Titan III SPO [redacted] computer RFP I have some concern that we may be developing two [redacted] systems with similar capabilities.

I realize you are concerned with satisfying Air Force, NASA and NRO booster requirements. I have viewed this problem principally from the NRO viewpoint and am concerned that you be aware of our views and the cost implications to NRO programs.

From my review I conclude that it is desirable to transition from the Titan IIIC to the Titan IIID/AGENA.



LEW ALLEN, JR.  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director

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