

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

April 30, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM REBER AND B/GEN. BERG *R*

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Land Panel and Related Issues

When I met with the Land Panel on Friday, April 25, it was very apparent that they think that the NRO has lost some of its old drive in being able to get on quickly with advanced systems at reasonable cost. They think we have become a big bureaucracy which can only do things in the standard multi-billion dollar way over a period of several years.

I do not know to what extent their views are justified. Certainly they were overstated for the purpose of emphasis and of course Land himself is much more extreme in these views than many of the other Panel members. In any case, I think it is partially justified and that we should try to go as far as we can to streamline our operation and then get in a position to move quickly on advanced systems.

At the same time we are caught in a tight budget year, with several very large programs which have huge appetites for money leaving us very little flexibility and very little free money for R&D activities. But I think we must be responsive in some fashion. There are a few things that we can do. First of all, we can be more hardnosed about letting the large systems contractors come in and ask for a new supply of money everytime they find they have a problem; second, we can be more aggressive in setting up a good R&D program and funding it accordingly; third, we can do more keen analysis in our office which will obviate the need hopefully for so many systems starts and might even turn up some possibilities of combining existing systems to reduce cost. I think there is considerable question about whether we might not be doing too much collection work and certainly we have not critically examined the impact of [REDACTED] on existing collection activity. Although it has been done once, I am not sure that the proper amount of

EARPOP [REDACTED]

HANDLE VIA **DYERMAN**

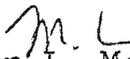
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

attention was given to considering the possibility of combining the 949 and [] requirements.

This point up the need to organize quickly a good analytical staff in our office. More important is the choice of topics to assign to this staff, and I would hope that Bob Naka could begin to devote some attention to this problem in advance of his arrival. The Staff Director's recently published memorandum shows how we are reorganizing to provide a better analytical capability. At the same time, we should re-examine the ongoing studies which I am not nearly as familiar with as I ought to be to see whether they are broad enough in scope and whether they cover all the problem areas which we ought to be covering.

Another question to be examined is whether the solid state array work can be expedited by spending a few million dollars each with a few good contractors and whether we ought to initiate some systems work leading toward a camera based on solid state arrays somewhat along the lines that [] is proposing in connection with the CBS camera system.


John L. McLucas

HANDLE VIA []
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 19, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Don Steininger, May 15, 1969

Purpose of the meeting was to review Land Panel report to the President.

Recommendations and conclusions as I remember them:

A. reconnaissance.

1. We should get on with the development of a reconnaissance system which would be useful for both crisis and general surveillance.
2. Allocate year (1970) and enough next year to keep program going at full speed.
3. This year initiate systems studies as well as push technological developments of critical components.

B. MOL.

1. Continue camera development.
2. Cut back overall program eliminating man.
3. Review other potential high resolution system, e.g. HEXADOR and upgraded GAMBIT.
4. Reallocate \$50M of savings to system.

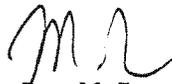
HEXADOR/GAMBIT/DORIAN

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM~~TOP SECRET~~
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLYCONTROL NO _____
COPY 1 OF 1 COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

Steininger also said that he hoped we would come up with a management plan which was simple. He seemed to be saying that one agency should manage the whole thing. I suggested that I agreed in principle but felt that it would be a mistake for example to let the CIA build its own Vandenberg. He agreed.



John L. McLucas

HEXADOR/GAMBIT/DORIAN

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY 1 OF 1 COPIES
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES