



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



15 JUL 1974

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: IN

SUBJECT: Closure of Air Force Special Projects Production Facility
(AFSPPF)

TO: SAF/US (Mr. Plummer)

1. The decision to close the AFSPPF is regrettable. The physical plant and collective expertise of the personnel assigned, as pointed out in my 8 February 1974 letter, provided a unique capability for integrated processing, exploitation and research and development (R&D) in support of the national photographic reconnaissance program.

2. In view of the firm decision for phasedown, eventual closure and transfer of functions of this facility, an effort should be made to retain the integrity of the reduced operation. Transfer of the production function to the 544th Aerospace Reconnaissance Technical Wing (ARTW) will provide a limited processing back-up for the prime contractor. Management of the evaluation and R&D functions should also remain under Air Force control.

3. For cost effectiveness and in order to take advantage of the synergistic effect which exists from collocation of all three functions, I strongly recommend that the evaluation and R&D efforts also be moved to the 544th ARTW. Many of the R&D programs sponsored by the AFSPPF were initiated as a result of requirements identified in the processing and evaluation areas. The other benefit to be derived from having such a center within an operational environment is the support which could be provided to the remaining Air Force production facilities.

4. Within the last few years, the number of these units has been cut in half, with no diminution in photo collection activities. A program to automate, standardize equipment and production techniques and insure a nucleus of experienced personnel on which to build in emergencies needs our concerted attention. Movement of the entire Westover operation to Omaha could be a step toward both satisfying this requirement and in promoting increased Air Force participation in the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP).

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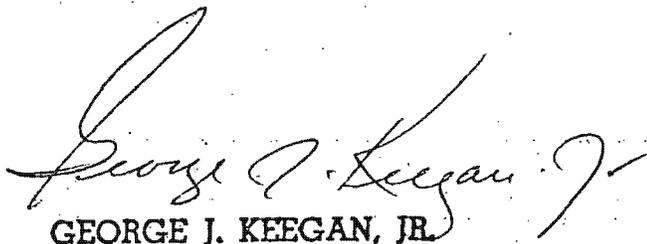
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5. The DCS Intelligence, SAC, concurs with my view. He is prepared to submit a plan for accommodating the present AFSPPF R&D and evaluation functions, or a reduced version of these activities, within the 544th ARTW. I would be glad to discuss this issue with you further at your convenience.



GEORGE J. KEEGAN, JR.
Major General, USAF
Asst Chief of Staff, Intelligence

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