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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of the Director

4 April 1969

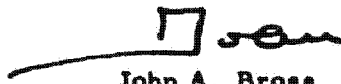
The Honorable John L. McLucas
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
4 E 968
The Pentagon

Dear John:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which Dick Helms has just sent to the Director, Bureau of the Budget on HEXAGON. As I understand it, the Secretary of Defense has rejected the recommendation of BoB to eliminate the HEXAGON program. We had therefore assumed that the matter was closed. Mr. Mayo's letter of 22 March (a copy of which is enclosed) indicates, however, that BoB is still disposed to argue for termination of HEXAGON. We have therefore prepared a rather elaborate refutation of the various points made in Mr. Mayo's letter and attachment thereto. This refutation includes cost figures submitted by the NRO Comptroller and a new study which restates the advantages which HEXAGON coverage will afford from the substantive intelligence view point. I am also enclosing a copy of this study.

The present round of correspondence between the DCI and the Director, BoB began with transmission by the DCI to the BoB of a report by the National Intelligence Resources Board confirming the need for HEXAGON as an intelligence resource.

Sincerely,



John A. Bross

Attachments

- BYE 041-69, Cy No. 3
- BYE 11663-69
- BYE 1443-69, Cy No. 16

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