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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

16 November 1971

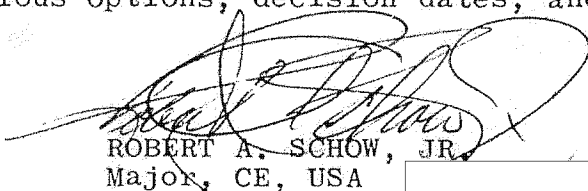
MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BRADBURN

SUBJECT: Termination of HIGHERBOY

During your trip last week, Stevie brought to my attention that you still had a memorandum on the above subject pending (TAB A).

A message drafted and released by Dr. Naka on 1 October relieved SAFSP of protecting HIGHERBOY launch options in the GAMBIT procurement/launch schedule (TAB B). The message further stated that further advice would be provided re kit procurement. None was forthcoming.

[] has indicated that the procurement of the second HIGHERBOY kit is so far along that there is no point in terminating it. He is at present formulating options as to how long we should maintain HIGHERBOY viability since the GAMBIT camera improvements which were recently approved will eventually render the HIGHERBOY kits obsolete. [] from [] will be visiting me on Thursday and will discuss the various options, decision dates, and costs involved.


ROBERT A. SCHOW, JR.
Major, CE, USA

N/A
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TAB A, LHSM, 29 Sep 71
TAB B, WHIG 1288 11/20/71

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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
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29 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Termination of HIGHERBOY

After discussions with General Allen last week I now recommend that we terminate HIGHERBOY. The following arguments support this recommendation:

a. Based on the success of HEXAGON 1201 and back-up available for CORONA, the HIGHERBOY capability does not seem to be needed for HEXAGON back-up.

b. The vulnerability argument is weak in view of continued Soviet testing of the co-orbital interceptor. HIGHERBOY does not appreciably lessen this threat.

c. There could be a cost avoidance by using HIGHERBOY at HEXAGON resolution for surveillance and reducing HEXAGON to two per year for search. However, with EOI approved, this mix is of only transitory value and not worth pursuing.

I recommend that we discontinue the HIGHERBOY kit development, establish our planned GAMBIT launches for CY 72 as four (not six), and adjust our delivery dates accordingly.

David D. Bradburn
David D. Bradburn
Colonel, USAF

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