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16 February 1965

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Before embarking on the FULCRUM search satellite program last July, Mr. McCone asked Dr. Edwin Land to convene a technical panel to advise him whether or not it was a promising venture. After careful examination, they recommended a vigorous six-month technical feasibility program to establish four key points. This feasibility program is now complete and we need to be sure that it has met its objectives before proceeding with full funding for a new search system.

As Mr. McCone indicated in his telephone conversation with you last week, Dr. Land has agreed to reconvene his panel and evaluate the results of this feasibility program. We believe that it should not include Government people. Dr. Land is agreeable to providing us with his technical counsel on FULCRUM but feels that the panel should also be exposed to other search satellite proposals in order to make a balanced evaluation. In my subsequent discussion with you, we agreed that Dr. McMillan would arrange to present the two Air Force search satellite proposals (Eastman Kodak and Itek) to the Land group. Dr. Wheelon and his staff will present the FULCRUM system. A thorough-going, two-day session in Boston has now been tentatively set for 23 and 24 February 1965.

Dr. Land has asked that his terms of reference be clearly established. Mr. McCone indicated clearly that Dr. Land and his panel will be acting as technical advisors to you and Mr. McCone,

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to whom he will provide his technical findings. Mr. McCone has agreed to go to Boston on the first day to clarify the terms of reference and summarize the USIB requirements for a new search system. It would add a great deal if you would join him and I believe that you would find it especially interesting.

Faithfully yours,

/s/

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Acting Director

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