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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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CORONA

18 March 1965

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

Mr. John Bross
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

After leaving you last night I have continued to think about the problem of organization which plagues not only the relationships between your agency and us, but also the relationship between the two government agencies and the contractors. In particular, I was thinking of the time delay that unavoidably would intervene between 1965 and the time when the first of new broad coverage, high resolution systems will fly. I can't conceive of any set of conditions under which this time will be less than 36 months. These 36 months may well be extremely important to the nation, and I think it behooves us to make as strong an effort as we can to improve the Corona system; I don't want at this time to list which improvements I have in mind because I am not sure which items are most likely to limit our capabilities. I believe that it would be extremely desirable to have your organization write a letter to ITEK requesting on behalf of the NRO a proposal for a quickie study which, after rehashing all the propositions which have been discussed and not implemented during the last three years, would come up with a series of suggested improvements to the Corona system which would be implemented in a time scale sufficient to warrant expenditures before the new system comes into being. I feel that such an effort will receive DNRO approval and support.

I will display my bias by noting that one year after everybody had agreed to have a reseau printed on to the film, no contract has been signed yet; also I cannot escape the feeling that, if as much attention and tender, loving care had been devoted to the engineering details of the Corona system as have been devoted to such systems as Fulcrum and its competitors, we would be farther ahead in the solution of our interim problem.

Mr. John Bross

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To conclude then, the purpose of this letter is to call to your attention the fact that, in addition to the management considerations related to device whose operational date is late in '67, we should begin to give attention to something which could become operational in the middle of 1966; it is clear that such action can only be taken through the intermediary of the present contracting agency, that is, the CIA. I, for one, would push very hard to get something like this done if we were to conclude that some meaningful improvements can be carried on in the desired time.

Please let me know what your thoughts are on these matters. I am sending a copy of this letter to Brock McMillan and I am by this means requesting his opinion also.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Eugene G. Fubini

cc: Mr. Vance
Dr. McMillan

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