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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 JUN 1965

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

Dear Cy:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of yesterday during which I informed you that I felt the need of special technical advice on the results of a review of the FULCRUM camera in relation with the selection of a new general search system as a follow-on to CORONA. As I told you on the phono, I have talked to Dr. Don Hornig who would be glad to assist us in this matter and indicated that he would refer the question to the President's Scientific Advisory Committee (PSAC) Reconnaissance Panel, of which Dr. Land is the Chairman. In view of Dr. Land's previous connection with this specific problem, and in view of his status as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), this would appear to me to be an ideal solution.

Brock McMillan has advised me that the NRO is funding projects by Eastman Kodak, and also by Etek, in the general search category. He has also indicated that in view of the Land Panel report on FULCRUM, this project, in his opinion, is no longer a candidate for consideration. It was not my understanding that any definitive decision had been made to eliminate the FULCRUM design. On the contrary, I understood that there had been agreement that no final decision

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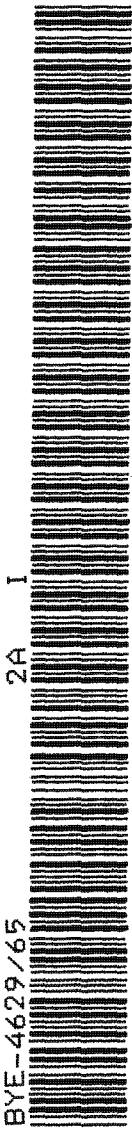
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either to accept or reject any of the competitive proposals in this field could be taken until final reorganization of the NRC. In the meantime, sustaining contracts for FULCRUM were continued and Perkin-Elmer was asked to review the system and provide us with an independent judgment concerning its feasibility and probable performance characteristics. They were asked to make this judgment against a requirement for the "best possible system design."

In view of the importance of general search requirements to national security, it is obviously essential that full consideration should be given to all proposals which seem reasonably calculated to meet these requirements. On the other hand, in the interest of economy, it seems to me that we should move as promptly as possible to reach an informed decision concerning the best system or systems for further development. It is with this purpose that I have suggested an early review by the PSAC of all of the designs for a new system which have been proposed and are now under consideration. In order to facilitate the work of the PSAC, I suggest that appropriate representatives of our respective offices prepare terms of reference to serve as general guidance in connection with this review.

Sincerely,

W. F. Raborn

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Director

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