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IMMEDIATE CHARGE

BYEMAN

PLEASE PASS EYES ONLY TO DR. MCLUCAS OR [ ] FROM [ ]  
AND LT COL HOFMANN

MR PACKARD HAS DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING (LETTER TO SENATOR ELLENDER,  
QUOTE

DEAR SENATOR ELLENDER:

WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY LAST WEEK THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE NEED BOTH THE FILM READOUT GAMBIT (FROG) AND THE ELECTRO-OPTICAL IMAGING (EOI) SYSTEMS. FUNDS FOR BOTH ARE IN THE FY 72 BUDGET REQUEST BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE.

WE ARE PROPOSING THE FROG SYSTEM BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAS REQUESTED THAT A SYSTEM WHICH WILL PROVIDE PHOTO IMAGES FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TO WASHINGTON IN A MATTER OF HOURS IS NEEDED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. THE FROG WILL PROVIDE THIS CAPABILITY FOR

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THE COUNTRY BY 1974. AN IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS SYSTEM IS THAT IT BUILDS ON KNOWN AND PROVEN TECHNOLOGY. MOST COMPONENTS OF FROG HAVE BEEN TESTED AND USED. THE REMAINING TASK IS SYSTEM INTEGRATION RATHER THAN SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT. THE DEVELOPMENT COST FOR THIS SYSTEM IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$182 MILLION, AND THERE WILL BE INVESTMENT COSTS OF ABOUT \$134 MILLION PRIOR TO FIRST LAUNCH. THE INVESTMENT/OPERATING COSTS WILL BE ABOUT \$100 MILLION PER YEAR THEREAFTER UNTIL THE EOI SYSTEM HAS FLOWN.

THE EOI SYSTEM HAS MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND WILL PROVIDE BETTER CAPABILITY BEFORE 1976 ALTHOUGH ITS ADVOCATES MAY PROMISE AN EARLIER DATE. INCLUDING THE DATA RELAY SATELLITE WHICH IS REQUIRED, THE DEVELOPMENT COSTS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE [ ] AND THERE WILL BE INVESTMENT COSTS OF ABOUT [ ] PRIOR TO FIRST LAUNCH. THE INVESTMENT/OPERATING COSTS WILL BE ABOUT [ ] PER YEAR THEREAFTER.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT EITHER SYSTEM WILL ALLOS REDUCTIONS IN LAUNCHES AND COSTS OF CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS.

IT IS THE NATURE OF THESE SYSTEMS THAT THEY WILL GIVE US THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN MONITOR MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS ON A CONTINUING BASIS. THIS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE WILL ASSURE US THAT WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY

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TO RESOLVE UNCERTAINTIES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES AT THE EARLIEST MOMENT RATHER THAN BEING FACED WITH ADVANCED SITUATIONS MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE DIPLOMATICALLY. THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO A CONTINUED PERIOD OF PEACE WITHOUT CRISIS. THE

PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR THIS CAPABILITY REFLECTS HIS DETERMINATION TO CREATE A GENERATION OF PEACE AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION THESE SYSTEMS WILL MAKE IN REACHING THIS OBJECTIVE.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT IN THIS VIEW. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE CREATES THE NEED FOR AN EARLY CAPABILITY AND CALLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE SYSTEM TO MEET OUR LONG TERM NEEDS. A PARTICULAR CASE IN POINT IS THE HIGH ASSURANCE SUCH A SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE THAT WE CAN SAFELY ENTER INTO AND EFFECTIVELY MONITOR ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS -- STRATEGIC NUCLEAR OR THOSE INVOLVING CONVENTIONAL FORCES. KNOWING THAT WE CAN HAVE THE CAPABILITY EITHER OF THESE SYSTEMS WILL PROVIDE GIVES THIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERABLE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT WE CAN SAFELY PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF ARMED FORCES IN AREAS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT AND ASSURE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY RESPONSE.

THE ONLY WAY TO ASSURE THAT WE HAVE AN OPERATING [REDACTED] PHOTOGRAPHIC SYSTEM BY 1974 IS TO PROCEED WITH THE FROG. IF WE

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CAN WAIT UNTIL 1976, WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE EOI ONLY. I AM CONVINCED WE WILL EVENTUALLY NEED THE ADDED CAPABILITY AND SPEED OF RESPONSE WHICH THE EOI SYSTEM CAN PROVIDE -- BUT THAT WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL 1976 FOR THIS SYSTEM.

I HOPE YOU WILL APPROVE THE PROGRAMS WE HAVE REQUESTED FOR FY 1972. I WILL BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH YOU AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

SINCERELY,  
UNQUOTE

[REDACTED] WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THIS PROPOSED LETTER IS ACCEPTABLE OR HAVE DR. MCLUCAS' COMMENTS TODAY (THURSDAY). MR. PACKARD ALSO PLANS TO SHOW THE DRAFT TO MR. HELMS AND DR. DAVID, AND HOPES TO HAVE THE LETTER SIGNED OUT TODAY OR TOMORROW. THE STAFF AND [REDACTED] HAVE REVIEWED THE LETTER AND HAVE INCORPORATED PROPOSED CHANGE.

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