

~~TOP SECRET~~

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

February 19, 1970

ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Fubini Panel vs. Land Panel

Last evening, Gene Fubini indicated to me that he has heard from "a most reliable source" the following information concerning developments within the Land Panel:

1. The Executive Secretary, Jack Martin, accurately reported to the Panel the tentative conclusions of the Fubini Panel.
2. The Land Panel discounted the various problems raised by the Fubini Panel, including the ground data handling problem, and determined that all could be resolved as a part of the system design.
3. The Panel unanimously decided to go full steam ahead with the Solid-State Array Project.
4. In spite of the unanimity of the decision, there are some indications that some of the concerns of the Fubini Panel are shared by some of the Land Panel members.

The Land Panel is expected to report to the EXCOM on its conclusions. Obviously, this means a confrontation between the two Panels.

At first Gene Fubini was inclined to attempt to avoid a confrontation. After talking to him this morning, he is of the conclusion that the matter is sufficiently serious and the dollars sufficiently great that a confrontation is probably not only unavoidable but desirable.

In light of the tentative findings of the Fubini Panel, I would find it very difficult to justify going ahead with the Solid-State Array. If you want my staff to become involved, let me know.

Robert F. Froehlke

GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

cc: John L. McLucas
Gardiner L. Tucker
Eugene G. Fubini
Vice Admiral Bowen

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