

TALKING PAPER FOR DR. COOK

SUBJECT: Budget Data Requirements for the Fall 1976 NFIP Budget Review,  
Admiral Murphy Memo, dated 17 August 76

PROBLEMS: Timing and Level - of - Detail

TIMING - In the May and July NRP/CFI reviews, the NRO discussed our planning schedules for continuing to support the traditional "July/Nov" NRP decision process. In July, we specifically pointed out the lead time required to change these traditional review dates, and stated the NRP was structuring the program to support a November 76 CFI meeting. If there was a desire on the part of the CFI to change timing of these meetings, we needed to plan accordingly.

- The CFI principals reaffirmed <sup>The</sup> ~~that~~ no-change-policy, <sup>for the NRO</sup> and this was and ~~directly~~ <sup>this</sup> confirmed with respect to <sup>this</sup> November by numerous references to "decision to be review in November" in the 19 July minutes.
- The NRO following the July CFI meeting tasked the program offices to structure their resubmission of program costs and relevant studies to support a November CFI review. At this late date, there is no way to accelerate the on-going effort to support an early October review.

LEVEL-OF-DETAIL: The subject memo also requested that the NRP data normally provided in the NRO Director's Report (In July 2 volumes, 241 pages) be supplemented with additional data to a lower level-of-detail "similar to that provided OMB last year".

- Last year, for the first time, and in an attempt to improve the relationship between OMB and the NRO, Mr. Plummer agreed to

and provided an early November an expansion (where the data was readily available) of the July 1975 ExCom data, for OMB's information and use. The additional data provided were outdated and not very meaningful. However, since at that time it was only provided to OMB and had no impact on the decision process, ~~therefore~~ there was no major concern other than the wasted time in preparing the document. It was in our opinion a square filling exercise.

- While the NRO had no basic problem with providing the additional outdated information to OMB, we are somewhat more concerned now that similar data is being requested by the IC Staff for their joint program review.

**NRO RECOMMENDATION AND POSITION:**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Consistent with the established streamlined management procedures, the NRO should be excluded from the "staff level joint budget hearings" as has been the case since 1962.

- It is inconceivable to us, that OMB should require a lower level of detail for their joint hearings than is provided to the CFI staffs to support the major programmatic decisions.
- If directed, the NRO will support the staff level budget hearings by providing an expansion of the July CFI Director's Report. This will have to be accommodated while we are attempting to prepare for the November CFI and the hard decisions deferred to that time.