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August 24, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE


I hereby approve the project recommended in your memoranda to me of 13 July and 18 August for inclusion of an electronic intelligence device in each of two planned satellite firings.



This approval highlights the need for a control organization within the Defense Department to provide effective and unified operational control and coordination of these and other satellite devices designed to serve operational purposes. I understand that you are studying this matter and I look forward to considering with you a plan for such an organization.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

*Recd 13 July 59*

Dear Mr. President:

The Advanced Research Projects Agency, in conjunction with the Department of the Navy, proposes an interim electronic intelligence collection capability which can be accommodated in the Department of Defense's navigation satellite development program. This proposal, which employs existing electronics components and requires minimum additional research, has the capability to obtain critical intelligence on Soviet defenses and technological development in an inexpensive and reliable manner.



The system, tentatively designated as Project CANES, has been coordinated with the Director of Central Intelligence, who has expressed his approval. It provides for a collection capability at an earlier date than that provided in SENTRY (recently redesignated as Project SAMOS). The planning envisions a completely covert program, thus avoiding political repercussions and undue publicity. Further, the system has several operational safeguards to reduce interference and to provide considerable flexibility for decision as to its use.

The Department of Defense and the intelligence community believe that this proposal is a complement to, and not a substitute for the SAMOS satellite system, and that it offers an early opportunity to check assumptions relating to the latter system at very low cost. It also will provide a significant intelligence input.

The estimated cost of the proposal is \$700,000, of which the Navy Department already has allocated \$375,000. The Department of Defense is prepared to fund the remaining \$325,000 from money available to ARPA.

Your approval to proceed with the technical development and planning is respectfully requested. It is, of course, understood that your approval will be required before the actual launching occurs.

*Thomas Spales*

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Approved

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