

~~TOP SECRET~~



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED  
ACCESS LIMITED TO STRICT  
"NEED TO KNOW" BASIS

October 12, 1960

*B*



Dear Mr. President:

As you know, with your permission, Project CANES, an electronic intelligence detection device, was successfully launched on TRANSIT IIA on June 22, 1960.

The initial performance of this Project has proven the capability of this system. It has been triggered on 23 different passes and a preliminary analysis indicates large quantities of useful and interesting data. This material is being studied in order to develop processing and analytical techniques. There is no apparent duplication in this effort with other collection systems in the ELINT field.

Since September 26, 1960, efforts to trigger Project CANES have been unsuccessful even though the radiation portion of the experiment continues to operate.

In order to continue and complete ELINT coverage and collection, the Department of the Navy has now proposed that a similar device to Project CANES be launched. This can be accomplished on a TRANSIT vehicle which can be scheduled for launch on November 29, 1960. The Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency concur with the Navy's proposal. If you approve, a proper unclassified scientific cover experiment will be developed to be included with this follow-on to Project CANES. The same security procedures used in Project CANES will be followed in this Project. It will be handled in a completely covert manner and limited to a strict "need to know" basis.

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

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,

Signed

(Thomas S. Gates)

The President

The White House



APPROVED: DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER October 17, 1960

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