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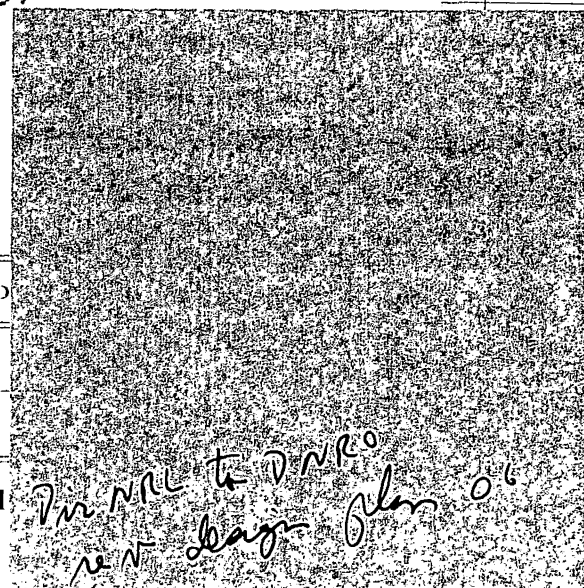
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To: Director, NRO

21 Dec 1967

5600-RDM:bdk

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BYE-26920-67

SUBJECT

Revised detailed design plan for MISSION 7106

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21 December 1967

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From: Director, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C. 20390
To: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

Subj: Revised detailed design plan for MISSION 7106

Ref: (a) NRL ltr BYE-26904-67 of 7 Feb 1967
(b) NRO ltr BYE-52212-67 of 21 Mar 1967
(c) NRL ltr BYE-26911-67 of 27 Jul 1967
(d) NRO memo BYE-52635 of 5 Sept 1967

Encl: (1) Table No. 1

1. Reference (a) submitted by the Naval Research Laboratory and approved in reference (b) was the initial design and ELINT specification for MISSION 7106. The predominate design hypothesis for this proposal was four (4) satellites equipped almost alike to provide the maximum coverage of the frequency spectrum then though to best describe the ABM/AES signal [redacted]. Since the four satellites were to be nearly identical, production-line techniques could have been in the production; thus, providing the earliest possible launch date which would follow MISSION 7105 by 10-months. This proposal represented the most timely response to the ABM/AES threat which NRL could propose at a time prior to the launch of MISSION 7105. After the successful launch of MISSION 7105 and with the guidance of members of the NRO staff, NRL submitted the proposal of reference (c), which specified the ELINT coverage consistent with the re-definition of the ABM/AES signal search problem, as well as extended the proposed launch date to June 1968, a period of 12-months after MISSION 7105.

2. NRL has just completed a comprehensive review of the schedule for accomplishing the goals set forth in references (c) and (d). There are severe schedule limiting procurements for the special R.F. preamplifiers of the tunnel-diode type used in the microwave portion of frequency spectrum for ELINT collection systems. The large quantity of these tunnel-diode units plus the high percentage of units which require extensive design time has become the major pace-setting element on the payload production schedule. It is now impossible to fulfill the design objectives of references (c) and (d) in time for a launch of MISSION 7106 in June 1968. However, by making certain minor modifications to the ELINT specifications set forth in reference (d), the MISSION 7106 primary payloads can be ready for launch by the end of October 1968.

The revised ELINT collection coverage proposed at this time is presented in enclosure (1). Note that the changes take the form of substituting one

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