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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



17 OCT 1975

INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: RAQUEL Program

Jim

At the ExCom meeting of 28 July 1975 it was agreed that a final decision on whether to procure RAQUEL IA or RAQUEL II would be withheld pending my review of the relative merits of the two systems.

As you know, Lew Allen asked the SIGINT Committee to express a community judgment on the matter. The SIGINT Committee concluded that the two vehicles would each satisfy equally high priorities in two generic classes. One was the need for precision measurements of threat weapon system parameters to support the development of countermeasures and tactics to enhance penetration survivability. The other was the need to acquire information in higher frequency bands not covered by other satellites on new and unusual signals which might provide early perceptions of advanced weapons systems that could affect the strategic balance. Of these two requirements, RAQUEL II would better satisfy the first, while RAQUEL IA would afford a better capability against the second.

My staff has pursued the arguments made by the Air Force and DIA in support of RAQUEL II. This was done in consultation with various electronic warfare (EW) experts in both DDR&E and the Services. They have concluded that the requirement for precision measurements of the type that would be attained with RAQUEL II have not been adequately justified.

The cost of the RAQUEL IA program is estimated by your staff to be \$8M less than RAQUEL II. If we were to proceed with RAQUEL II, and URSULA IV were modified as recommended by the SIGINT Committee, there would be an additional cost of \$8M.

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. EXEMPTION CATEGORY Para 5B(2)&(3)
DECLASSIFY ON Impossible to determine

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In view of the \$8-16M cost differential, the essential equality of value of the requirements to be satisfied by either RAQUEL IA and II, the considerable difference of community opinion on whether EW requires the precision of measurement which deserves the acquisition of RAQUEL II, and the availability of other collectors to satisfy the higher priority EW requirements, I believe that we should proceed with RAQUEL IA and stop any further work on RAQUEL II. Bill Colby has seen this memo in draft form and concurs.

al Hall

Albert C. Hall

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