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SMOS  
Box 37

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JUN 24 1960

Lieutenant General Bernard A. Schriever  
Commander, Air Research & Development Command  
Andrews Air Force Base  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bennie

You are undoubtedly aware of my concern over the present lack of a capability within the Air Force to handle intelligence data that may be obtained from the SAMOS R&D flights scheduled for the early Fall of this year. The present world environment makes it more urgent each day that this system be tested and brought to full maturity as rapidly as possible.

General Wilson in a letter of 1 June 1960 repeated the comments of the Under Secretary of the Air Force in regard to the present planning for the system. It is apparently his opinion that there is still some technical uncertainty as to the best solution to the problems of satellite reconnaissance. His feeling is that present plans are "too elaborate" and in general "overengineered." He further expresses the opinion that, until some of the R&D flights have been processed, the best system cannot be selected. He has directed that a more austere plan be devised.

General LeMay, last August, placed the responsibility on me to insure that all R&D intelligence data will be processed promptly and exploited to its fullest extent. This, of course, must be accomplished without hindering your responsibility for the development of an operational system.

My staff has recently reviewed this problem of dual responsibility, projected against the urgency of the situation. They have developed a plan which I feel satisfies all requirements. Essentially, it provides for the use of our present reconnaissance technical facilities

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to resolve the immediate (September) problem, followed by a phased build-up of an austere R&D test facility here at Offutt.

I believe that you will find, upon review of this plan, we can accomplish our responsibilities and still grow in an environment which will have the benefit of intelligence experience and background that can best support this effort.

I recommend that this proposal be incorporated into your new development plan and defended as a necessary item of the overall SAMOS System, thus insuring a prompt solution to this particular problem.

Sincerely

THOMAS S. POWER  
General, USAF  
Commander in Chief

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