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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON

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RT DATA ENTERED

DATE 6/25/87

April 21, 1965

MICROFICHED

DATE 6/26/87

Dear Al:

The purpose of this letter is to pass on to you a number of questions concerning several aspects of recent MOL studies which the Special Space Panel would like considered in preparations for its next briefing on the subject. Please understand that these questions are not meant to restrict your planning for the briefings in any way, but are simply suggestive of some aspects of the MOL program in which Panel members have indicated an interest.

In a few days I should be able to discuss with you a choice of time for the briefing. In accord with our recent discussion, this will not be planned earlier than May 24. Also, you should know that the total time the Panel will have available to receive the briefings will probably not exceed five hours.

The questions which have been suggested thus far are as follows:

(1) Using the current Titan III X and/or the Titan III C configurations in a 1970 polar launch, what are the expected attainable values for manned and unmanned versions of optical reconnaissance systems, of the following:

- (a) maximum nadir ground resolution
- (b) satellite life in orbit; crew rotation period
- (c) probability that a given number of targets (specified during satellite-mission life cycle) are usefully recorded with ground resolution of: [REDACTED]

(2) For the two classes of systems in (1) what are the estimated costs:

- (a) of system developments
- (b) per deployed operational system
- (c) per target with resolution of: [REDACTED]

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- (3) What are the significant considerations in coming to conclusions concerning the following operational alternatives:
- (a) use of both manned and unmanned system
 - (b) use of manned systems only
 - (c) use of unmanned systems only
- (4) What are the relative operational advantages of manned and unmanned systems in terms of: launch flexibility; recovery of data; speed of reaction time to acquire data about specific target?
- (5) If the first flight version of the MOL is to be a purely experimental (rather than a quasi-operational) system, what are the considerations which tend to determine the total number of spacecraft to be ordered?
- (6) What are the main technical problems in optical reconnaissance, and in other areas of specifically military interest, not susceptible to definitive resolution by ground or aircraft supported studies, which it is intended to investigate with MOL? For which of such problems is the use of the Extended Apollo system impractical; and for what reasons?

Sincerely Yours,



N. E. Golovin

Dr. Albert C. Hall
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