

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 22, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Tagboard

The issue presented to you hinges on the existence of missions which have the following characteristics:

1. The reconnaissance must be acquired within such a short time that satellites are unacceptable.
2. Manned flights into the area are unacceptable under the circumstances under which such a mission would be required.

I have not been shown proposed missions which appear to meet these conditions and it appears to me that some convincing scenarios should be available to you in order to make a decision.

If you conclude that there are such missions, then -- since Tagboard is the only unmanned system that can perform them in the 1968-1970 time period -- the proposed development should be allowed to proceed. With the drones now on hand and in production this would provide an operational capability into the early 1970's.

However, I am not convinced that we have studied all possible unmanned alternatives (e. g. direct read-out satellites) which might be made available in the 1970's and which might be less costly than Tagboard but just as effective. I therefore agree with Mr. Schultze that during the next year we should investigate these possibilities. Until that study is complete, I recommend you disapprove the procurement of additional drones with FY 68 funds, even though you decide to continue the development program.

*Donald F. Hornig*  
Donald F. Hornig

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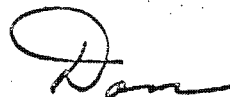
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Dear Charley:

I understand that you have decided to take the Tag-board issue to the President for decision and that your memorandum to him on this is now being drafted. If so, there are certain considerations which I think should be brought to his attention and I would like to attach the enclosed memorandum to yours.

Sincerely,



Donald F. Hornig  
Special Assistant to the  
President for Science  
and Technology

The Honorable Charles L. Schultze  
Director  
Bureau of the Budget  
Washington, D. C.

Copy to: The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance

Enclosure.

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