10 December 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: NRP Launch Plan

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum, Same Subject, 5 December 1980

1. I wish to thank you and your Staff for the timely and full discussion of the imaging satellite launch schedule at SLC-4W. Your memorandum, and the earlier discussion between your Staff and the COMIREX, made the issues very clear and was appreciated by the analytical community. (TS/G)

2. While I recognize the importance of maximizing our real-time capability for crisis support, I believe that the requirement to assure we have a continuous imaging capability is of even greater importance. Therefore, please change the present plan and prepare to launch a Dual Mode GAMBIT by 1 March 1981. (TS/G)

STANSFIELD TURNER

BYE-3343/80
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GAMBIT