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Fall 77  
Budget*

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PASS CHARGE

DISTRIBUTION		
SAFSS	A	I
SAFUS		✓
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SS-1		✓
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IMMEDIATE CHANGE.  
HANDLE VIA BYEMAN CONTROL CHANNELS.  
GAMBIT.

FOR GEN KULPA FROM [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: GAMBIT PROGRAM.

1. DR. MARK HAS REQUESTED THE FOLLOWING GAMBIT PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE BE DEVELOPED IMMEDIATELY FOR INCORPORATION IN THE BUDGET PACKAGE WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE MONTH. ASSUME THAT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS UNWILLING TO CONTINUE THE GAMBIT PROGRAM BEYOND VEHICLE 49 AS A HIGH RESOLUTION COLLECTION SYSTEM. DR. MARK BELIEVES THAT THE SYSTEM HAS HIGH POTENTIAL AS A BACK-UP RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM GIVEN THE DUAL NODE CAPABILITY. HE WOULD, THEREFORE, LIKE TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE

WORKING COPY

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THE DUAL NODE CAPABILITY AS SOON AS PRACTICAL WHICH WE ASSUME TO BE IN THE LATE 79 OR EARLY 80 TIME PERIOD. THE PLAN SHOULD BE TO RETAIN AT LEAST VEHICLE 50 AND POSSIBLY VEHICLE 51 IN THEIR CURRENT CONFIGURATION UNTIL THE DUAL NODE CAPABILITY IS AVAILABLE. ONCE THE DUAL NODE CAPABILITY IS AVAILABLE, THE PLAN WOULD BE TO RETROFIT VEHICLE 50 AND 51 IF THEY HAVE NOT BEEN LAUNCHED IN THE INTERIM TO OBTAIN THE DUAL NODE CAPABILITY ON ALL REMAINING GAMBIT VEHICLES. THE PLAN SHOULD ASSUME THAT ONE OF THE DUAL NODE VEHICLES WOULD BE LAUNCHED TO DEMONSTRATE THE CAPABILITY AND THAT THE REMAINING VEHICLES WOULD BE HELD IN A STANDBY CONFIGURATION SUCH THAT ONE COULD BE CALLED UP ON SHORT NOTICE. THE LAUNCH CALL-UP (REACTION TIME) SHOULD BE THE MINIMUM WHICH YOU CONSIDER REASONABLY CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING THE COST WITHIN REASON. YOU SHOULD ALSO SEPARATELY IDENTIFY THE COST OF TRANSITIONING THE DUAL NODE GAMBIT VEHICLE TO THE SHUTTLE, ASSUMING THAT THE AGENA WOULD BE USED TO OPTIMIZE ON-ORBIT MANUEVER

**CAPABILITY.**

2. I REPEAT THAT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO MODIFY

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THE REMAINING FIVE GAMBIT VEHICLES INTO A DUAL MODE CONFIGURATION, TO LAUNCH ONE OF THE VEHICLES TO DEMONSTRATE THE CAPABILITY IN BOTH THE HIGH RESOLUTION AND SEARCH MODE IN ALL THE REMAINING VEHICLES IN A LAUNCH CALL-UP CONFIGURATION. DE. WARR IS CONVINCED THAT THIS IS BOTH TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE AND SHOULD BE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN THE ANNUAL COST OF FLYING OUT REMAINING VEHICLES.

3. PLEASE PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IF YOU FEEL THAT THIS PLAN IS NOT FEASIBLE. OTHERWISE PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY PROGRAM PLAN AND ROUGH COSTING BY THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER. IF ADVANTAGEOUS, YOU CAN PROVIDE A FINAL UPDATE OF THESE COST ESTIMATES NOT LATER THAN 30 SEPTEMBER. IF THE ALTERNATIVE IS SELECTED WE WILL ATTEMPT TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVALIDATE THE COSTS FOR AT LEAST FY 79 PRIOR TO THE END OF OCTOBER.

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GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION