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HEXAGON, CORONA, GAMBIT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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17 June 1968

The Honorable Alexander H. Flax
Director, National Reconnaissance Office
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Dear Al:

The National Intelligence Resources Board (NIRB) is undertaking for the Director of Central Intelligence a review of the anticipated contribution to substantive national intelligence needs of the HEXAGON in relation to CORONA and GAMBIT-3. As you know, Mr. Duckett and staff briefed the NIRB on 13 June regarding the general capabilities of HEXAGON.

I am also requesting the views of COMIREX as to the responsiveness to priority national intelligence requirements of the product which HEXAGON is expected to provide in relation to the products of CORONA and GAMBIT-3.

It is the intention of the NIRB not to go into technical matters or aspects which are within the province of program management. However, in order to develop recommendations which are useful to the DCI regarding the relative contribution to national intelligence of different activities and programs, the Board must take into account cost factors and changes in the productiveness of activities and programs which can reasonably be expected to occur.

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It would, therefore, be most helpful if you would identify for us the anticipated effect on the products of CORONA and GAMBIT-3 of currently-planned systems improvements which would take effect over the next several years, i. e., until HEXAGON is scheduled to become operational. I would, in addition, like to request your estimate of cost trade-offs of CORONA and GAMBIT-3 vis-a-vis HEXAGON in the time frame of the expected use of the three systems, both on the basis of the current program and on the assumption that a decision were made to cancel HEXAGON in the relatively near future.

We don't know how quickly we will need this information but would like to have it as soon as feasible in view of the current stirrings on this subject.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,



Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Director

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