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25 MAY 1965

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vance:

I have received a letter from Dr. McMillan concerning development of new satellite reconnaissance systems for general search purposes. His letter refers to the USIB requirement of 29 July for the development of:

"A single capability for search and surveillance with continuous stereoscopic ground coverage equivalent to KH-4 and resolution equivalent to KH-7."

I should like to take this opportunity to confirm my own conviction of the importance of proceeding to meet this requirement as a matter of urgency.

As you are aware, we are continuing sustaining contracts on the FULCRUM system and have undertaken a re-evaluation of the basic Itek design. Costs in this connection, approved by Mr. McCone, aggregated one million dollars for April. Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed and substantially cut the costs of this project which are now projected for May at \$700,000. I gather that both Eastman and Itek are proceeding with the design and development of prototypes and a testing program involving tests of critical components and including over-all payload designs.

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I feel that we should meet at your early convenience to review all competitive programs and establish procedures for selecting the design best calculated to meet the USIB requirement.

Sincerely,

(signed) William E. Raborn, Jr.

William F. Raborn, Jr.  
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)  
Director

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