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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

1965 MAY 25 15 43

25 MAY 1965

The Honorable Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

Dear Brock:

Thank you for your letter of May 3rd, dealing with the status of development of satellite general search systems.

This is obviously a matter of great importance and urgency. As you will see from the attached copy of a letter I have sent today to Deputy Secretary Vance, I propose to move quickly to review these competitive programs and establish procedures for meeting the USIB requirement.

Sincerely,

W.F. Raborn

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

Attachment
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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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