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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

5 JUN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable David Packard  
The Deputy Secretary of Defense



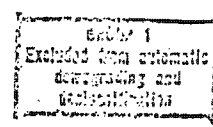
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- I have reviewed your proposal to prepare a paper for EXCOM consideration by 15 July on the subject of our recent conversations with Dr. Land. I would like to give you my views on how we should proceed in addressing the four areas you outlined.
- With regard to the problem of establishing the intelligence requirements which would be served by a real-time readout system, I have had under way for several months a comprehensive study of the potential value of such a system for indications, warning, crises, and day-to-day intelligence production. The study, which will be completed shortly, follows up earlier USIB and NRO papers and is intended to provide the basis for an initial USIB statement to the NRO of requirements for such a system. I am satisfied on the basis of the work to date that an appropriately configured real-time imagery system would be of considerable value to intelligence, and I am confident that the completion of the present study and USIB review will confirm my present views. The USIB review and statement of requirements will be completed in early July.
- On your second point, I feel that the questions of the relative contribution of area coverage, target frequency and resolution toward the satisfaction of requirements are interlocked with the requirements themselves, and I believe that these will be addressed satisfactorily in the USIB statement.
- Inasmuch as the NRO has had a technology program under way in this field for several years, I assume that Dr. McLucas

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will be actively associated with the evaluation which you propose in your memorandum as the third step and that the extensive work and previous EXCOM reviews over the past several years will be used as a base.

5. With respect to your fourth point, I believe that until we have moved toward a more concrete definition of a [redacted] system, it will be difficult to assign closely drawn value and cost trade-offs to alternative [redacted] readout systems and their effect on the total mix of satellite photography.

6. I fully appreciate the need to move toward the attainment of a [redacted] imagery system capability in a way which strikes an appropriate balance between urgency, engineering caution, and cost considerations. I believe a strong case has been made to proceed promptly with increased research and development and that this is the essential point on which EXCOM should focus at this time. I will be happy to make my findings and intermediate studies available to you as they are completed, pending final USIB action. Mr. Roland Inlow, who is the Chairman-designate of COMIREX, has been engaged in the requirements study, and I would encourage direct discussions and consultations between Mr. Benington and him in the interim.

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Director

cc: Dr. DuBridge  
Dr. McLucas

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