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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BYE 11,905/68

December 20, 1968

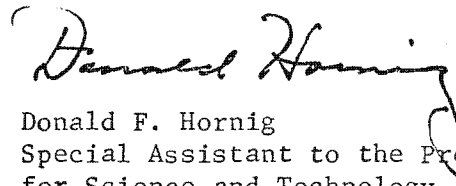
This document consists of 1 pages
No. 3 of 4 Copies, Series A


ART B I L

MEMORANDUM FOR: Paul H. Nitze
Richard Helms
Alexander Flax ✓

At our last Committee meeting we discussed the fact that Dr. Land's Panel would meet on 18 December to continue its review of technology for satellite reconnaissance and would report to us their views about the disposition of FY 69 and FY 70 funds in this regard. I have attached their memorandum on the results of this meeting.

It would seem important now to make a definite assignment of FY 69 funds so that work can proceed on whatever program we decide on. I propose we plan to make a decision on a specific program package within the next few weeks.



Donald F. Hornig
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

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December 19, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Donald F. Hornig

Following up the recommendations the Panel made after its October 2 meeting, we reviewed yesterday the status of solid-state technology and its application to [redacted] readout satellites; we pursued the subject in considerable depth with the contractors working in the field and with the Agency people sponsoring these activities.

We have come away from that review convinced that the solid-state array represents both a feasible technology for [redacted] satellite reconnaissance and an approach which in the long run offers performance opportunities and flexibilities not likely to be available with any other foreseeable transducers.

As a result, we urge that highest priority be given the technology and analysis work related to the solid-state applications and that FY 69 funds be provided to support the highest level of effort that available contractors can absorb. At the meeting yesterday a program was proposed which allocated about [redacted] additional FY 69 funds for technology related to solid-state arrays and for associated systems studies; we are inclined to believe that a level of effort two or three times greater than this for the rest of FY 69 could be usefully absorbed by the contractors and would be appropriate to the priority we think should be assigned the effort. The systems studies are an important part of the '69 program; while the several array alternatives apparently require very similar optical and mechanical systems, the direction and emphasis of their FY 70 programs can be influenced in an important way by a better understanding of the overall system trade-offs.

It is too early to make recommendations about the character and level of the FY 70 program. The community will be developing thoughts on this over the next few months and we will plan to review tentative programs with NRO in the early spring. In the interim we plan to review progress on the FY 69 work in a February meeting.

Edwin H. Land

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