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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

4 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR ASST SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (R&D)  
LT GENERAL GLASSER, AFRDC

SUBJECT: Electro-Optical Imagery System

The purpose of this memorandum is to review for you the status of the NRP Electro-Optical Imagery (EOI) development with emphasis on the July 1970 ExCom guidance and the [ ] implications. At its July meeting the ExCom reaffirmed its earlier decision that the Solid State Array is the primary technology for an EOI system. The ExCom established a slower pace than that desired by the CIA and which had been passed to [ ] as a baseline schedule. The ExCom did not specify an IOC date due to budget uncertainties in FY-1973/74.

Subsequent to the ExCom meeting, Dr. McLucas approved initiation of Phase I System Definition for the imaging satellite and ground station. He released [ ] for the Phase I effort and the supporting FY-1971 technology program. The Phase I results will be reviewed in December at which time we expect to proceed into Phase II System Definition. We currently plan to complete Phase II System Definition and be ready to ask the ExCom for authority to proceed into System Acquisition in November 1971.

The FY-1971 funding for CIA is not sufficient to allow continuation of their communications technology program. Thus, as soon as their current effort is completed, [ ] will be the sole source of communications technology for the EOI system.

During the past several months a committee, chaired by Dr. Fubini, has reviewed the EOI program including the [ ] portion. It is the committee's view that the Data Relay Satellite (DRS) portion of the program is one of the critical areas. Depending on the outcome of the [ ] Concept Definition Phase and the imaging satellite/ground station system definition effort, the pacing item in the EOI program may well be the DRS.


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In summary, a significant number of dollars have been committed to the EOI system. No IOC date has been set due to the uncertain funding picture, but IOC dates in calendar 1975 are being considered.

status was not discussed with the ExCom. However, there is the implicit assumption that the Air Force DRS effort is proceeding at a pace consistent with the other components of the EOI program.



LEW ALLEN, JR.  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director

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