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1 MAR 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Review of EXCOM Minutes

1. As you requested, I have reviewed the minutes of the last EXCOM meeting and have been in touch with Bob Naka and Jack Martin about them, negotiating questions that arose because of a discrepancy between the statements on page 8 relative to the EOI decision and the actual decision as you and I understood it to be, and as it is currently being implemented by us with Dr. McLucas' approval.

2. Although the minutes say we should carry both Configuration A and B in Phase II and not get a "frozen" design, in fact we are working toward a firm design of Configuration A by the end of Phase II. Concurrently, we are studying possible modifications having to do with another and with limited on-board data storage - modifications which can be incorporated in Configuration A this spring if they turn out to be advantageous. The scope of the studies have been discussed with Dr. David's staff and are consistent with his desires. As far as I can tell, all parties are now in agreement that the plan we are implementing properly reflects the desires of the EXCOM. In view of this, I do not plan to ask Bob Naka to publish a revision of the minutes.

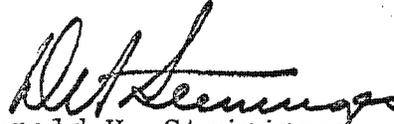
3. If I may, I would like to take this opportunity to make an observation and a proposal. The ambiguity of these minutes accurately reflects, I believe, a corresponding vagueness in the way the decision was articulated at the meeting. This in turn was a direct consequence of the fact that the options presented by D/NRO for decision did not include a variation that apparently Dr. David wanted to have considered. As a result, the Committee had to improvise a solution on the spot. It seems to me almost inevitable that an option invented during the press of the meeting itself will at best be somewhat imprecise and even run the danger of being impracticable to implement.

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4. I think the Committee would be well served to ask its members to submit options of their choice to the D/NRO in advance of the meeting so they can be studied by the NRO staff and the other EXCOM members and placed on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, this could be done prior to each meeting by Bob Naka's simply sending a note to each member asking them to let him know if they have additional options to be included on the agenda.

5. If this sounds reasonable to you, I will suggest it to Bob.



Donald H. Steininger
Assistant Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

It does. Please do.
ML

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