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December 20, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. WHEELON, DDC&T, CIA

As we discussed yesterday, I would like you to take a personal hand to guide, in my behalf, the studies proposed by Director, NRO Program B, of a possible [redacted] [redacted] As you know, his budget contains [redacted] [redacted] of new satellite systems. I would like to be sure that this money is spent in the most productive way. I suggest the following general guidelines.

I feel that studies of specific hardware, or design studies, are not appropriate until the operational and intelligence objectives that are being sought are clarified. I look to you for help first in bringing about this clarification. I believe that we need a statement of mission, or a list, but at most a limited list, of specific missions, in order first of all to define why it is that we are studying a new development. Second, such a statement or list would serve as a basis for determining the features to be emphasized in hardware and systems studies, and for setting the priorities in trade-off studies that may ensue. Among the features that must be related to each other and fitted into a mission concept are covertness, vulnerability, reaction time, resolution, coverage, and flexibility of targeting and recovery.

More specifically, it is my impression that for later use several combinations of boosters and launch aircraft have already been well studied, and indeed to the point that one can generalize from these studies to conclusions about the limitations of systems based on available hardware. I feel that no new studies of this kind should be started until the results of all past studies have been summarized and analyzed.

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Numerous trajectory studies have also been made showing the target coverage available from combinations of fixed launch and recovery points, and relating this coverage to duration of mission. I believe that these also must be analyzed before further such studies would be appropriate. Colonel Paul Worthman of the NRO Staff can direct you to all of the studies I have mentioned.

At your convenience, I would like to hear your thinking about objectives and requirements, and your specific recommendations as to studies to be undertaken. I do not think that Program B should spend any major portion of the budgeted study funds until I have had your recommendations.

Signed

BROCKWAY McMILLAN

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