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Lucas

6 OCT 1955

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter of 1 October outlining the manner in which the Central Intelligence Agency has organized to assure adequate support of the National Reconnaissance Program. These arrangements will be appropriately reflected in the near future in NRO documentation implementing the new NRP Agreement.

I will be pleased to work directly with Mr. Sheldon in his capacity as Director of the CIA Reconnaissance Programs. I agree that formal program approvals and instructions, budget matters, as well as any request or direction which has a significant effect on the total or relative allocation of CIA personnel and resources to the NRP, should go through this single authoritative point of contact. At the same time, we must also recognize the need for a close day-to-day relationship between various working levels of the CIA, DOD, and the NRO Staff. In particular, the exchange of detailed program information and technical direction necessary in the discharge of the NRO's responsibilities to ensure system engineering and system integration, as outlined in the new NRP Agreement, can be effectively accomplished only through frequent and direct contacts with people at the project management level.

It is my intention to maintain overall project directors for systems in the NRP, and to also identify subsystem directors when the latter are part of an organization other than the one charged with overall project management. Where systems or major subsystems are assigned to the CIA, the system or major subsystem director must have free and direct access to me and the NRO Staff, and vice versa. Obviously, we will have to make specific arrangements for those cases wherein the CIA serves in a support relationship to an NRP project whose director is not located in the CIA.

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I feel sure that the necessary guidelines for these working relationships can be evolved with Mr. Sheldon, as appropriate to each NRP activity in which the CIA participates. I will make every effort with him to develop the most effective and harmonious arrangements possible.

Sincerely,

Signed.

Alexander H. Flax
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

Mr. Richard Helms
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

- 1-2. Mr. Helms, CIA
- 3. SS-1
- 4. RF-1

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