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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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2 March 1970

Dr. John W. Townsend, Jr.
Deputy Administrator
Environmental Science Services
Administration
Department of Commerce
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Jack:

During our discussions on the 20th of February 1970, it was indicated that technical considerations might require the delay of ITOS D in order to incorporate the Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR). Further, in view of the lack of a requirement within the civilian community for high resolution imaging ($\leq \frac{1}{2}$ n.m.) and the continued availability of such data from Program 417, it did not appear cost effective to continue development of the VHRR sensor. Specifically, you posed the question, "Does DOD require the VHRR sensor?" Our requirement for the VHRR capability has been carefully reviewed with the following conclusions:

a. As stated in the JMSPO letter of 26 November 1969 to the NESC, the Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) is already receiving comparable data, and we cannot justify funding for the additional ground communications necessary to receive VHRR data at AFGWC on a near realtime basis. Another factor is the cost of terminal equipment and modifications to process and display VHRR products.

b. The potential usefulness of the VHRR data to tactical sites is recognized. A VHRR readout capability would be useful to Air Force sites in a complementary or "fill in" sense when Block V VHR data are not available from Program 417 satellites. Navy shipboard Program 417 installations, not yet firmly projected and awaiting forthcoming feasibility tests, will not be initially configured to copy VHRR data. It would probably be after 1975 that such a modification to shipboard installations would be considered providing certain technical difficulties could be overcome in the interim. For all landbased tactical sites, Air Force and Navy, costly modifications would be necessary to adapt to the VHRR data.

Based on the foregoing reasoning, the DOD does not object to the deferment or cancellation of the VHRR sensor development. We wish to emphasize, however, that the current DOD requirements for meteorological satellite data remain valid. In fact, the JCS is now coordinating a revised list of parametric requirements which should be transmitted to ESSA by May 1970. Specifically, we have a firm and continued requirement for global visual and IR ITOS data (approximately 2 n.m. resolution) at the AFGWC and at our

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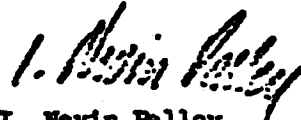
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AFT type installations. Your development of the Vertical Temperature Profile Radiometer (VTPR) is of considerable interest to us and we would like to see high precedence afforded to this program.

It is hoped that close cooperation and coordination can be maintained between our organizations in all the areas mentioned and that we continue both formal and informal exchanges and discussions.

Sincerely,



I. Nevin Palley
Assistant Director
(Space Technology)

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