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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

1 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL BRADBURN, SAFSP

SUBJECT: Operational Failures

As I approach the end of my tenure as DNRO I find some discouragement in the fact that the program recently has witnessed a disproportionately high number of failures relative to its declining number of launches. Although we have re-reviewed our procedures, received outside assistance in analyzing these problems, and instituted a series of special reliability efforts we continue to be plagued by mission-damaging malfunctions. Of particular concern to me at this time is the problem with [Redacted]

[Redacted] I believe that a continuation of this rate of failure would have a major impact on the future of our program. We must improve upon this record. I would like you to relay my concern to all government and contractor personnel involved in assembly, test, launch and on-orbit operations.

I would also like you to take the following actions: review and report on those efforts begun under the recommendations of the Morgan Committee; provide me with your personal assessment of their adequacy; and, with a view toward operational success, I desire your thoughts on our over-all strategy, and of the courses of action currently available to us. Please provide me with a preliminary report on these actions by 1 Sep 1973.

Our goal should be to equal and surpass the degree of operational success that I enjoyed during the first two years of my tenure.

[Redacted]
John L. McLucas

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GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE OF [Redacted]
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE- [Redacted]
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