In accordance with our agreement of yesterday, it is requested that the following instructions be forwarded to ARPA concerning the DISCOVER-THOR project and SENTRY program:

Fiscal and programmatic adjustments incident to the formulation of the 1959 budget have necessitated the modification of the SENTRY Development Program. Furthermore, examination of the DISCOVER Program as it is constituted in the proposal also creates a requirement for program management reorientations.

In response to these needs, the ARPA staff has proposed a modification of the DISCOVER proposal. The details of the proposal have been furnished to Project Development personnel of the Air Force Ballistic Missile Project. Acknowledging the tenuous nature of this proposal until further details can be made by the Project Personnel, it is the purpose of this memorandum to request such a study and present the findings for our joint consideration on the 15th of December. It is our objective to reach a final determination as to the content of the programs for FY 1959 and balance of FY 1959 in their major elements by 17 December.

The actions suggested in the ARPA proposal should each be reviewed with the objective of determining fiscal and project timing implications. Where customer commitments are involved, an assessment of industrial impact should be made. In general, the goal should be to determine the sensitivity of overall the proposed adjustments suggested, the cost in time and money for implementation of new program elements suggested, and alternative supportive data for program elements suggested by the ARPA staff are determined to be valid.

For the purposes of this review, it should be assumed the development resources available will amount to $25 million in FY 59 and $160 million in FY 60. Intelligency and evaluation of the program elements the evaluation should be based on the best information which is available in the time period provided. If it appears that fully-intelligible information cannot be made available by the date desired herein.
However, it seems likely that sufficiently accurate determinations can be made as to permit major decisions which are necessary for the formulation of a final development plan.

"In the interim period, until the major program decisions are finalized, the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division should be directed to withhold any major fuel commitments that go beyond the scope of the ARPA proposal. In those areas that might be designated for cancellation, no material procurements should be authorized beyond the absolute minimum necessary for preserving the continuity of engineering effort."

/s/ Roy W. Johnson

Roy W. Johnson
Director