PART I. PER OUR DISCUSSION IN VALLEY FORGE LAST FRIDAY, THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION TO NOTIFY ALL APPROPRIATE MOL CONTRACTORS THAT:

1. ALL FURTHER DEVELOPMENT EFFORT TOWARD AN UNMANNED MOL RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM IN THE PRESENT PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL AT LEAST FY 1972. MOL CONTRACTORS SHOULD THEREFORE IMMEDIATELY STOP ALL EFFORTS AND/OR EXPENDITURES UNIQUE TO THE UNMANNED MOL SYSTEM.

2. THE UNMANNED MOL FLIGHT VEHICLES 6 AND 7 HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PREVIOUSLY-PLANNED BLOCK I MOL PROGRAM. A FOURTH MANNED MOL SYSTEM LAUNCH (A NEW FV-6, IDENTICAL TO FV'S-3, -4, AND -5) HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED IN THEIR STEAD. THE NEW BLOCK I MOL PROGRAM THEREFORE NOW INCLUDES SIX FLIGHTS: THE PREVIOUSLY-PLANNED FV-1 AND -2 UNMANNED QUAL LAUNCHES; AND FOUR MANNED, ALL-UP, 30 DAY RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS AT APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTH INTERVALS.

3. NO ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN OR CHANGES MADE IN THE MANNED MOL CONFIGURATION WHICH WOULD KNOWINGLY PRECLUDE POSSIBLE FUTURE MODIFICATION TO AN UNMANNED MOL SYSTEM (AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED).


PART II. ALL MOL CONTRACTS WHICH REFLECT ANALYSIS, DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, OR PRODUCTION UNIQUE TO THE HERETOFORE UNMANNED MOL CONFIGURATION SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY AMENDED AT AN EARLY DATE. ADDITIONALLY, APPROPRIATE MOL CONTRACTS SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THAT FV-6 NOW IS A MANNED SYSTEM FLIGHT IDENTICAL TO FV-3, -4, AND -5...
CONTRACTS THAT SUPPORTED THE PREVIOUSLY-PLANNED SEVEN LAUNCHES WITH ITEMS OF ACTIVITIES COMMON TO BOTH MANNED AND UNMANNED LAUNCHES (E.G. SEVEN T-111M'S: FIVE FLIGHT SETS PLUS SPARE FUEL CELLS, ETC.), USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT WHETHER TO AMEND THEM NOW OR WAIT UNTIL DECEMBER 1970. WHEN CONVENIENT, PLEASE ADVISE ME OF ACTIONS OR PLANS WITH REGARD TO MARTIN, ALLIS-CHALMERS, IBM, ETC., CONTRACTS IN THAT LATTER CATEGORY.

PART III. THE SYSTEMS OFFICE WAS ADVISED PREVIOUSLY THAT ON MARCH 19 SECRETARY LAIRD TOLD THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN A NON-BYEMAN SESSION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVED ALL "COL" OBJECTIVES COULD BE MET WITH ONE FEWER LAUNCH AND THE FY 70 NOA REQUEST HAD THEREFORE BEEN REDUCED FROM $576 TO $556 MILLION. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE FIVE YEAR DEFENSE PLAN THEN REFLECTED $556 MILLION IN FY 70 AND $556 MILLION IN FY 71 FOR COL. BOTH A BYEMAN AND NON-BYEMAN EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGE FROM A SEVEN TO A SIX LAUNCH NOA PROGRAM ARE BEING HAND-CARRIED TO YOU VIA COL SKANZTE THIS DATE.