MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HANSEN, SAFRD

SUBJECT: Titan IIIC - Titan IIID/AGENA

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with a parochial view on the Titan IIIC - Titan IIID/AGENA question which I understand is to be decided this week. As you know, NRO programs depend heavily on the AGENA. It is used both for boost and for on-orbit control on the CORONA, GAMBIT and STRAWMAN programs. It is used as an ascent stage on the programs. While there are no NRO programs currently on the Titan IIIC, a booster of this general class may be required for a potential and for the proposed Readout Data Relay Satellite. The Program Office has been working on an spacecraft and has been somewhat constrained by the Titan IIIC capability. It appears that the Titan IIID/AGENA would provide a more comfortable design margin.

Another factor of interest is usage rates for the transstage and the AGENA. Phase-out of CORONA, the reduced frequency of GAMBIT operations (both due to the introduction of HEXAGON), and the phase-out of low altitude SIGINT programs will reduce the number of AGENA's launched from sixteen in FY-70 to five or six in FY-1975. I have no first-hand knowledge of the projected Titan IIIC launch rate in FY-1975 but would assume that there are significant benefits to be had by consolidating upper stage procurement to one vehicle.

I am also concerned with the possibility that the program, scheduled for launch on centers, may become the only user of Launch Complex 13, the Atlas/AGENA and the associated ground guidance station. A fall-out of a Titan IIID/AGENA capability at the ITL would be a Titan IIIB/AGENA capability and this could provide a more cost effective launch environment for...
As you may know, is hoping a as a part of the Ascent AGENA. This development is proceeding satisfactorily and a preliminary analysis shows that this system can handle the Titan IIIC missions. In view of the recent Titan III SPO computer RFP I have some concern that we may be developing two systems with similar capabilities.

I realize you are concerned with satisfying Air Force, NASA and NRO booster requirements. I have viewed this problem principally from the NRO viewpoint and am concerned that you be aware of our views and the cost implications to NRO programs.

From my review I conclude that it is desirable to transition from the Titan IIIC to the Titan IIID/AGENA.

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Director