

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

22 December 1970



MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS ★
SUBJECT: STRAWMAN 4 (2737)

PURPOSE

To obtain concurrence in the continuation of the present plan to launch STRAWMAN 4 during April 1971.

BACKGROUND

On the 25th of November 1969, ExCom canceled STRAWMAN 5 which was presented as providing a one-year overlap with [redacted]. In January 1970, we nonconcurred in the addition of long-life batteries to STRAWMAN 4 at a cost of \$724K. The proposed battery change would have resulted in a 15-18 month EOB system life in contrast to the present life. (Present life estimates by the program office have ranged from 6 to greater than 12 months.) We also established a STRAWMAN schedule at that time which had two 4-5 month gaps in EOB coverage [redacted]. Since that time both STRAWMAN and [redacted] schedules have slipped. Now there is only one gap between the end of the STRAWMAN program and the EOB operational date [redacted].

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ALTERNATIVES (See TAB A)

The following options present all the major strategies for STRAWMAN 4:

Option A - Present Program

Advantage - No additional cost due to changes in the planned program. Provide attempt at SA 5 signal intercept by December [redacted].

Disadvantage - Overlapping coverage between STRAWMAN 4 and STRAWMAN 3.

★ Please note [redacted]

comment - pg 3.
Sweeney [redacted]

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Option B - Slip STRAWMAN 4 Until STRAWMAN 3 Failure

Advantage - A launch on failure strategy would provide the greatest STRAWMAN system life.

Disadvantage - High cost; slip cost is \$20K/day and additional operational support is about \$15K/day. This option would provide coverage beyond that required for [redacted] debugging.

Option C - Add C and X Band Capability to STRAWMAN 4 and Slip URSALA

Advantage - Eliminates overlapping coverage.

Disadvantage - Cost is about \$6M for slip and limited C and X band hardware plus an undetermined cost for slipping URSALA.

Option D - Cancel STRAWMAN 4

Advantage - Save \$5.68M NRO (\$4.4M in FY 72)
0.72M NSA
\$6.40M

Disadvantage - Lose [redacted] coverage. Gap in EOB coverage up to 2000-MHz will occur after useful life of STRAWMAN 3.

DISCUSSION

Option A will over-kill the EOB requirement with overlapping coverage. Fortunately, the overlap coincides with the [redacted] program. Both Options B and C result in costs that are not balanced out with improvements in coverage. Option D, cancel STRAWMAN 4, must be disregarded since the [redacted] has been identified by USIB as the most important ELINT target.

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RECOMMENDATION

General King has recommended Option B, launch STRAWMAN 4 on failure of STRAWMAN 3 (TAB B). He feels that such a strategy is cheap insurance [redacted]

The Staff believes that the present schedule provides better coverage than that established a year ago; ExCom has not changed its position; and our confidence in [redacted] and STRAWMAN is better. Thus, we cannot see why we should expend additional funds for additional coverage at the present time.

Since the other options do not show a clear advantage over the present plan, I recommend that the message at the right be sent which continues STRAWMAN 4 on the present schedule.

It is further recommended that the performance of the [redacted] spacecraft be reviewed just before the launch of STRAWMAN 4 to determine if a later launch is appropriate. The [redacted] requirement, alone, justifies the 6.4M dollar cost to fly STRAWMAN 4. Only a failure of the [redacted] spacecraft would justify a delay in the launch of STRAWMAN 4. Termination of STRAWMAN 4 would be justifiable if the [redacted] is intercepted and if we are willing to gamble that the [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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TAB A, Options
TAB B, CHARGE 5726 (BAF D-6-a)

OPINIONATED - THERE IS ALWAYS A "NEW" REQUIREMENT TO JUSTIFY SPENDING MONEY OR TRYING TO KEEP A PROGRAM ALIVE. IN VIEW OF NAVBA Ex Com DECISION, THERE CAN BE OTHER REASONS TO TERMINATE.

[redacted]

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