

RAK-15
RAR-A-8

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IART
DECLASSIFIED ON: 1 OCTOBER 2012

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



August 16, 1967

Dear Al:

Thank you for your comments on the Land Panel memorandum. I agree with you that the issues involved are ones requiring judgments which may vary among reasonable people. The Panel report reflects the view of the subject from a group whose opinion I value; however, I will want to consider other opinions before arriving at my personal conclusion and I am looking forward to your recommendation to the Executive Committee. We must rely on you to put the detailed supporting structure around all the alternative solutions that the Executive Committee should consider in making its decision.

Please don't be disturbed about the Panel recommendation against continuing contractor competition. I think the Panel would be among the first to agree that it is the prerogative of government officials to select contractors and to determine the objectives and technical characteristics of the program. I think the Panel is only giving its opinion that a development should be started promptly and that there is a spacecraft design it believes superior to the rest for meeting the objectives that the Panel considers important.

I hope we can view this and other Panel recommendations in the spirit that is inherent in establishing the Panel--to provide inputs to our decision making from a group of experienced and talented advisors.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Hornig
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

~~AKK~~
Dr. Alexander H. Flax
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
Washington, D. C.

cc: Mr. Nitze
Mr. Helms

~~TOP SECRET~~

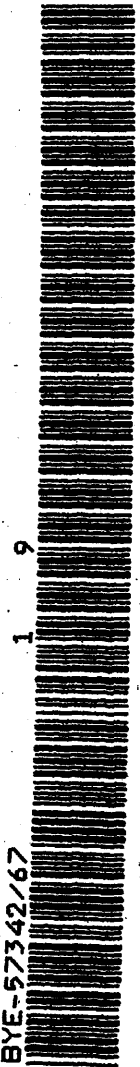
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

CONTROL NO BYE 57342-67

Page 1 of 1 pages

Copy 1 of 1 copies

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY



9
1

BYE-57342/67