

*Green Road*

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**DORIAN**

25 MAR 1966

Mr. Charles L. Schultze  
Director  
Bureau of the Budget

Dear Charlie:

Your letter of March 21, 1966, suggests a review of certain factors in the MOL program and a possible reappraisal of the original decision for a manned system. As you know the program is now proceeding along a dual development approach which has the advantage of ultimately permitting, on a mission selection basis, either a manned or an unmanned mode of operation. Our studies to date indicate that the unmanned version will ultimately approach the ground resolution range of the manned version. It is important to note, however, that man serves a dominant role in the on-orbit development process to achieve the high quality capability. By proceeding along this route, we believe we can build a system which will be close to optimum in each mode, retaining the benefits assigned to each.

Although we ultimately expect high performance in the unmanned version, to proceed unmanned from the start would certainly lower our confidence in the time and reliability with which we hope to achieve the desired performance. These considerations are still valid, as they were last summer. We now better understand the techniques and inventions that must be developed to achieve an unmanned capability. As a result, we can make more meaningful estimates of the costs required to go the wholly unmanned route. This effort is in process and should be complete in about two months. At that time we will be able to evaluate the wholly unmanned approach and compare it with the present option of retaining man in the development process and subsequent operations.

Sincerely,

SIGNED  
BOE

DL Fink/tp/25 Mar 66

COORDINATION:

Dr. Finn Larsen  
Dr. Alexander Flax

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